

VOL. 2 NO. 11 NOVEMBER, 1960

MONTHLY

# SECURITY GAZETTE

Security News Crime Prevention Fire Protection Industrial Safety



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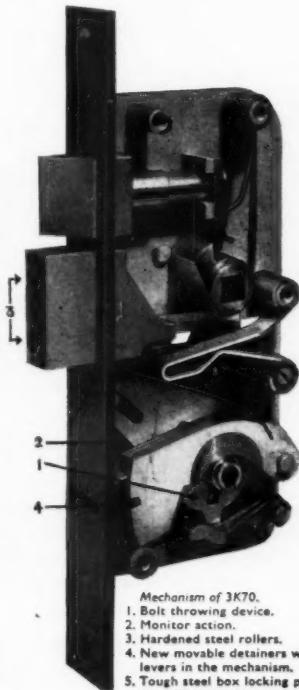
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## CONTENTS

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# SECURITY GAZETTE

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*Editorial and Advertisement Offices*

|            | Page   |
|------------|--|
| <b>320</b> | Editorial : Exploring Juvenile Crime :<br>Blows Against the Banks  |
| <b>321</b> | A Great Public Security Service—Duties of<br>the British Transport Commission Police<br>by <i>L. James, Chief of Police, Commission's<br/>Eastern Area</i>                 |
| <b>325</b> | Co-operation Against the Gangsters—<br>Plan to Avoid Pitfalls of Central Control<br>by <i>Sydney Smith, Chief Security Officer,<br/>Mirrlees, Bickerton &amp; Day Ltd.</i> |
| <b>328</b> | Crime Prevention—<br>Mr. R. A. Butler's Warning to Parents<br>also page <b>345</b> —R.C.M.P. Advice<br>page <b>346</b> —Ingleby Report's Proposal                          |
| <b>329</b> | Company News and Personalia  |
| <b>331</b> | Crime Review   |
| <b>333</b> | Chief Fire Officers' Association conference :<br>Home Secretary's address  |
| <b>335</b> | Vast New Field for Fire Prevention<br>by <i>A. E. Bowles, M.B.E.,<br/>Chief Fire Officer, Lancashire Fire Brigade</i>  |
| <b>337</b> | Fire News of the Month   |
| <b>339</b> | Monthly Diary : by <i>Security Chief</i>   |
| <b>341</b> | In the Courts  |
| <b>342</b> | Legal Notes : Powers of Arrest by Warrant  |
| <b>344</b> | Industrial Police Association News :<br>Fifth Training Course  |

**COVER PICTURE :** This unusual Stockholm photograph shows how a smash and grab raid can be recorded by camera. After a series of thefts, the shop owner installed an automatic camera which was set off by the breaking of the window. The eyes of the man have been blocked out according to Swedish police requirements.

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November, 1960

319

## Exploring Juvenile Crime

**T**HREE is evidence of much hard work and painstaking enquiry in the report to the Home Secretary, published last month, of the Committee on Children and Young Persons, presided over by Viscount Ingleby. At the time of its appointment in 1956 there was reason to believe that the rise in the nation's crime figures after the war had reached its peak and that they would slowly settle back into normality as the disturbing factors attributed at that time to the war ceased to have effect. The illusion was rudely shattered by the alarming increase of crime in the last four years, especially in the age groups with which the committee was primarily concerned.

Though many of the "war babies" clearly were misbehaving as they approached maturity, not everything could now be blamed on the war. The committee came to recognise—and has now proclaimed quite frankly—that all was not well with our approach to the subject of the juvenile delinquent. One cannot, it is true, claim that either the children's courts, the approved schools, or Borstals have been an unqualified success and many changes in the system generally, 125 in all, are called for by the committee's recommendations. Whether the addition of further remand homes and a crop of expensive detention centres will put matters right is a matter of opinion. Much more promising, it may be thought, is the policy deliberately adopted by the committee, of going deeply to the root of the problem and tackling it from the angle of prevention rather than cure. In this the approach accords with the emphasis now being given to prevention by police forces generally and is in line with the excellent work of certain forces in the field of juvenile control.

Stressing the importance of family influence and parental responsibility, the report obviously envisages closer oversight of family welfare—especially where there has been misfortune or some inherent failure due to health or disability—in order to secure for the child the best bringing up possible. In far fewer cases than formerly can this failure and the resultant misbehaviour of the child be due to poverty in the home. Juvenile crime has kept pace startlingly with the prosperity of working-class households. It is parental neglect and irresponsibility that is the legitimate target now of those who would check delinquency at its source.

The recommendations of the committee that the parent should be associated with his offspring in an appearance before the children's courts will be welcomed as an assurance that, in future, both will be amenable to justice. The child under 12 will not be liable to conviction at all. We have travelled far since the days, within living memory, when abandoned waifs appeared regularly in London's police courts and were sent off to gaol, sometimes for long periods without a word being said either in their defence or by way of extenuation. And to ensure that the third party in the case—the victim, if any—shall not be forgotten when justice is meted out, it is recommended that within limits compensation shall be payable—by the "young

person" himself if he should be over 14 and under 17, and by the parents of the erring child below the age of 14. Here, too, the report has a wider significance. One great problem faced by the crime prevention and security officer is the widespread cynical attitude towards other people's property. Any movement towards rebuilding older ideals of honesty and care for property will help to assist in reducing industrial waste and thieving.

It may be thought that Youth Courts which have the committee's tacit approval, though they are outside its terms of reference, are possibly more needed today than the Children's Courts. The mischievous boy of school age is not greatly impressed by the elephantine—as it appears to him—efforts of authority to fasten his misdemeanours fairly on to his shoulders, or for that matter the heavy curtain lecture that follows, or even the menace behind the threat that the magistrate is determined no longer to tolerate such conduct. The heavy hand of a policeman falling at the time of the offence is for the young a much more effective deterrent—the "immediate punishment by someone with whom the offender is familiar" spoken of the other day so realistically by Mr. Dennis Vosper, the new Minister of State for the Home Office. But that deterrent requires both more men on the beat and confidence among police officers that they command the loyalty of the public. Any policy towards juvenile delinquency, however important it may be in its own right, has thus to be seen as only part of an overall policy towards crime and security.

### Blows Against the Banks

**T**HOUGH the incidence of successful raids on bank strong rooms and safes seems to remain fairly steady, there are signs that public opinion and the Press are again beginning to wonder just how effective bank security really is. It takes little to set off speculation, and present thoughts have undoubtedly been stimulated by the raid on a London branch last month in which the thieves were reported not only to have spent the weekend on the premises, but also to have collected customers' property as it was dropped in the night safe.

There is an important point here which needs clarification by the banks. Their attitude hitherto has been to insist that they are responsible only for the security of cash left on their premises or in their possession and that any losses of customers' money are made good. But what checks—except the customer's word or the chance survival of a paying-in slip—can there be on amounts lost via the night safe? In this instance money had been "accepted" by the bank but not, unfortunately, by a bank cashier. It entered the bank's premises but remained very much "cash in transit" for which the banks generally decline to assume responsibility. Does this mean the public should be warned not to use night safes? They have been looked upon previously as valuable elements in crime prevention.

# A GREAT PUBLIC SECURITY SERVICE

## Duties of The British Transport Commission Police

By L. James

*The author of this article has been Chief of Police of the Commission's Eastern Area since 1956. He read for the Bar, and on his return from the Sudan in 1951 joined the Commission's legal service. Mr. James began his police career as a Metropolitan constable and won the Queen's Gold Medal in 1954.*

THE security of the public transport services of the United Kingdom is by the nature of things a specialized job. There is not merely a problem of providing protection for an enormous range of buildings, locomotives, rolling stock, vessels, motor vehicles, and vast quantities of static technical equipment and stores, but the protection of an endless stream of goods in transit.

Over an intricate network of roads, railways, docks and waterways, goods are in various stages of transit, in vehicles or vessels, in depots, wharves, or warehouses. Some idea of the immensity of this commitment will be gained when I say that approximately 250 million tons of goods are carried by rail in a year, that there are over one million wagons in service, and nearly eight thousand stations at which freight is handled. Something like 960 express freight trains run every working day. In addition there is the nation-wide parcels service run by British Railways in conjunction with the passenger train services and this handled 83 million consignments in 1959. The protection for these goods in transit could not be provided without both an intimate working arrangement with the operating officers of the various undertakings concerned and a sound knowledge of the commercial practice and documentation underlying the organisation.

It is the métier of the British Transport Commission Police to understand and meet these special needs of the industry. The railways and docks, since they have a territorial location, provide the basis or the framework of the police organisation, but it is a service which is available to deal with the prevention and detection of crime affecting not only the Railway and the Transport Commission Docks, but also the Road Services, the Waterways, and the Railway Hotels. The term Railway Police is thus today a dead letter and reflects only a part, though a substantial part, of the total duty undertaken.

### Enforcing Transport Law

But the British Transport Police Force has another duty to perform apart from providing custodial protection to the Commission's property and to the public property entrusted to the Commission in its capacity as carriers. There is also the duty of law enforcement.

From the earliest days of transport history, experience proved that safety and good order could not be left to the goodwill of a travelling public numbering perhaps two and three-quarter millions each day. technicalities, is today too much the special field of the expert to be left to other members of the industry's

Gradually a body of peculiarly transport law and bye-laws grew up which had to be enforced in a professional police manner. By degrees police constables, originally introduced to preserve order among Irish labour during railway construction and retained for simple manual signalling duties until mechanical signal boxes were introduced, became the recognised law enforcement agents of the railway, dock and canal companies. The business of law enforcement, bristling as it is with legal staff, even if they had the time or the inclination to undertake the duties involved.

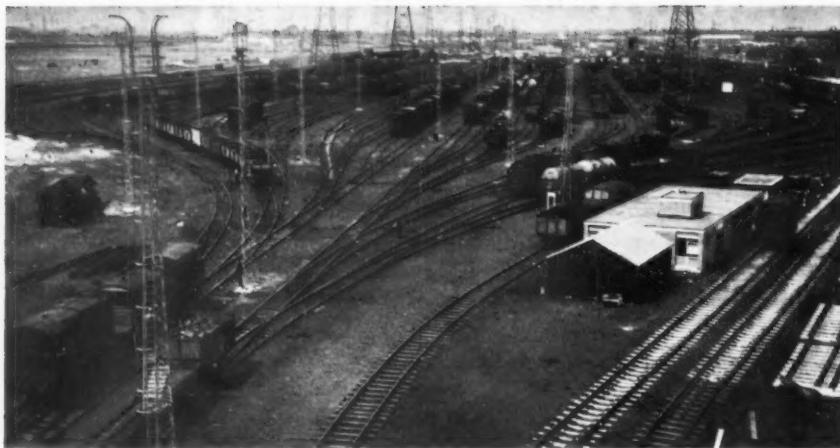
### Full Police Powers

The first police officers to be employed on the railway were special constables responsible to local Justices of the Peace; eventually, however, the Railway Companies obtained powers to employ their own constables. The Railway Act of 1921, which amalgamated the Railways into four main groups, had the effect of creating four railway police forces; and the Transport Act of 1947 combined them into a single organisation responsible for policing all the undertakings of the Commission.

The British Transport Police Constable derives his powers from Section 53 of the British Transport Commission Act of 1949. On appointment under the provisions of this Section, he acquires all the powers and privileges of a constable. Hence, today, the British Transport Police Constable duly sworn in by a Justice of the Peace, is within his jurisdiction just as much the embodiment of the Common Law as his colleague in the civil forces and enjoys exactly the same powers and privileges.

The B.T.C. Police Force comprises approximately 3,000 men divided into six units or Areas under Area Chiefs of Police, each coterminous with the Railway Regions, together with a single Division under a Superintendent responsible direct to the Chief Constable for the London Transport Executive's undertaking. There is also a central C.I.D. Section at the central headquarters under the command of a Chief of Police (Crime). Conditions of service are comparable, though not identical with those of the civil police service, and all recruits to the Force spend a period of twelve weeks under training at the Force's training school at Tadworth, Surrey. Instruction follows very





*This picture of the marshalling yard at Ripple Lane, near Dagenham dock, is indicative of the great problems facing the B.T.C. police. Multiplied throughout the country, the yards form a vast and vulnerable beat.*

much the same lines as that of the civil forces, with special emphasis however on the Commission's peculiar problems. While the civil police authorities are pre-occupied to a large extent with road traffic control and law enforcement, the offences most commonly calling for the attention of B.T.C. police officers are those of trespass and the various forms of fraudulent travel. Trespass on the railway has always been regarded as a highly dangerous practice and constitutes a criminal offence as distinct from a mere civil tort, and fraudulent travel merits almost a specialized branch of law enforcement in its own right.

#### **Area Organisation**

The head of the Force, the Chief Constable, is responsible to a Police Committee composed of distinguished members of the Commission and representatives of the various divisions of the undertaking. The Chief Constable stands to the Force very much in the relation of a colonial commissioner of police, having co-ordinating, advisory, and inspectorate functions and leaving the day-to-day direction of the Force substantially to the Area Chiefs of Police.

The Area Chiefs of Police, like the commandants of colonial provincial police forces, are responsible to the Chief Constable for the efficiency of their commands and to the General Managers of the corresponding railway regions and to the managements of the other divisions of the undertaking for the maintenance of law and order. The Police Areas are themselves divided into Divisions under the command of Divisional Police Superintendents and the Divisions in turn into Sub-Divisions under Sub-Divisional Inspectors.

The establishments of the Sub-Divisions vary in size and may be relatively large commands such as Hull, Grimsby or Southampton, or smaller as for instance, Peterborough, Cambridge, and Ipswich. In most Sub-Divisions there are subordinate posts, some manned by only a single Constable with a 24-hour responsibility on the lines of a village Constable.

#### **24-hour Supervision**

Each Division comprises both uniform and C.I.D. staff, together with women police, and dog patrols as required. Crime prevention duty is essentially the work of the uniform staff and all large railway and dock

centres are covered by patrols and by fixed gate duties. Supervision is provided by Sergeants and Inspectors in the same way as in civil police forces. In London and one or two other large railway centres the number of police officers on duty over the entire 24-hours and the concentration of travelling public, fixed property and goods in transit justify continuous supervision by senior officers and a system of Patrolling Inspectors (as distinct from Sub-Divisional Inspectors with a 24-hour responsibility) is in force there.

#### **Country-wide Jurisdiction**

The jurisdiction of the Force is co-extensive with the lands of the Commission so that, on being sworn in, a B.T.C. Police Officer can exercise his powers anywhere on the Commission's undertaking. This country-wide jurisdiction is one of the main features of the British Transport Commission Police Force and emphasises its independence of geographical and local government boundaries.

So far as static property is concerned, police protection is given by means of the well-tried method of police foot patrols, supplemented at certain points by surprise visits by mobile patrols and, in the more isolated areas, marshalling yards, etc., where a police officer could expect little support from the general public, by dog patrols. Unfortunately the lands and property of the Commission are so widespread that patrols cannot economically be provided on a full-time beat system, and a good deal of flexibility and discretion enters into the distribution of police constables at any particular time.

#### **Locating Crime**

In the case of losses in transit, these may not come to the notice of consignees for several days and are very rarely reported immediately after their commission. And, even when they are eventually reported, they are not crimes of known venue. They may have occurred at any point between despatch and non-receipt. Consequently, the practice of the British Transport Commission Police in these cases is to endeavour to locate the scene of crime by process of elimination, to study the incidence of losses and then to formulate plans to detect the thief or thieves in the act. For this reason the emphasis in this Force is on detective, rather than in-

vestigative, police duties and it is true to say that our most spectacular prosecutions have been the result of long-continued observation over long periods of time under difficult conditions and in all kinds of weather.

In some cases thefts have been carried out over long periods by train crews, in others by station staff, or by crossing keepers living near regular stopping places. Sometimes raids are made by outside gangs attacking wagons during shunting operations in marshalling yards. At other times consignments are taken out of railway depots on motor vehicles and left with receivers, or handed over direct to private carriers under the guise, if detected, of mistaken deliveries. The methods adopted by criminals on the railway are multifarious, and means adopted to combat them must be correspondingly flexible.

#### Difficulties of Search

A factor which contributes to the difficulty of detecting crimes on the Commission's premises is the absence in the conditions of service of railway staff of any obligation to submit to search on leaving the premises. This has been partly remedied by the provisions of Section 54 of the British Transport Commission Act, 1949, which gives Police Officers a power to stop and search members of the staff suspected of carrying stolen property; but there must be genuine grounds of suspicion before a policeman can act under the Section which precludes anything in the nature of a general check. The implementation of the Section requires from members of the Force a constant state of alertness, acute observation, resolution, and infinite tact. Unjustified action or tactless handling could quickly antagonise staff and precipitate serious labour troubles.

#### Among the Travelling Public

Apart from watch and ward duties, i.e. the prevention and detection of theft, almost the whole range of police work falls to B.T.C. Police Officers at one time or another. Uniform Officers must maintain order in the waiting and refreshment rooms of the more important railway stations and keep stations, ports and dockyards free of undesirable characters, male and female. Traffic

control takes up an increasing amount of our time and at holiday times queues for trains and taxis must be organised.

The passenger train, particularly on racing days, is often frequented by card-sharpers; cases of indecency in railway compartments regularly call for attention. Publicity has been given in the press to the serious outbreak of vandalism by youths travelling on trains with which we have had to contend and damage to moving trains by stones, air rifles or obstructions on the line also give rise to many police enquiries and prosecutions.

Finally, there are various internal offences against the Commission's interests, embezzlement by dining car staff, booking clerks and ticket inspectors.

#### Dockland Townships

Police duties are very much the same everywhere, though special areas have their peculiar problems. The B.T.C. Docks such as Grimsby, Hull and Cardiff are almost small townships in themselves and require a system of beat protection similar in every respect to that of any borough. Thefts of ships' stores, of fish from the fish markets, even, on occasion, the illegal taking to sea of a complete vessel are typical of the crimes committed in these areas. The ports such as Harwich and Southampton call for special passenger control, and the Customs and Immigration authorities rely on B.T.C. Police vigilance during their inspections.

Throughout the whole of the Commission's great undertaking the B.T.C. Police Officer will be found enforcing the law and creating the disciplined conditions so necessary for the smooth working of the public transport industry. At times of industrial unrest he will be seen carrying out his duties with a studious impartiality.

At serious railway accidents he will be there to facilitate rescue operations and guard the property of the Commission and members of the public involved. He is constantly on the alert for fire hazards and more often than not is a fully qualified first aider. He is a vital member of the organisation, a specialist in the time honoured duty of maintaining the Queen's Peace.



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Security Gazette

# Co-operation Against the Gangsters

## Plan to Avoid Pitfalls of Central Control

By Sydney Smith

*Chief Security Officer, Mirrlees, Bickerton & Day Ltd.*

**With the recent increase of crime the police service has been much under the public eye of late. It is common ground that one prominent factor making for lawlessness has been the undermanning of forces and the scarcity of patrols, which in turn tends to involve questions of organisation. This article reviews recent suggestions for improving efficiency, though the views expressed are, of course, those of the individual contributor.**

**I**N the spate of comment to which we have been subjected recently on police matters, many suggestions, in addition to the obvious ones of better pay and conditions, have been put forward by people with little or no appreciation of the complexity of the problem and can only be dismissed as visionary and impracticable. One proposal that can be relied upon to attract informed comment is that control by local authority should be dropped in favour of a central control—in short, that there should be a National Police Force.

### A "National Force"

The latest suggestion of this kind came, in fact, from a police source. The Scottish Police Federation passed a vote of "No confidence" in the local authorities and pronounced in favour of the introduction of a national police force north of the border. The majority view was that financial control as exercised by the local authorities was a hindrance both to the efficiency of the service and the welfare of its members and a resolution to this effect was carried.

Although it has to be admitted that the force as a whole is understaffed, underpaid, in many instances overworked, and in many instances also hampered by red tape, the alternative presented by the Scottish resolution seems potentially dangerous. In the opinion of many inside and outside the force, it would prove far too drastic a remedy for existing ills and could conceivably create more problems than it eliminated. If it were adopted, the country would have a force with a politically-directed Ministry of Police, with the consequent danger that the responsibility of maintaining law and order would enter the

sphere of politics. Not that there is anything necessarily amiss with political control as such; it is in many instances essential. But it is possible that, if the local connection were severed, the unique position of the force, whose impartiality is unquestioned, might be jeopardized, to the detriment of relations between the force and the public it serves.

This relationship which both police and public tend at times to overlook is fundamental. The function of the police in Britain is to ensure the observance of laws which have, in the course of time, been evolved for the protection of the community. The public itself pays the force through rates and taxes to uphold the law. With very few exceptions, and in spite of their current difficulties, the police achieve their objective most successfully. It is a role which must at all costs be preserved.

### Totalitarian Warnings

Examples we have seen in other countries of police services being prostituted for political ends, particularly under the control of parties with totalitarian leanings, are sufficient warning of the dangers of a national force. In the light of what has happened elsewhere most people are conscious of the value of the local connection and are determined that it should be retained here. It need not be taken to imply, however, that in the opinion of the public all is well with the present system; in that estimate many in the force itself would concur.

While some local forces may have few problems and can boast a full establishment, others are strained to the limit. Faced by an epidemic of criminal activity or a difficult and prolonged murder investigation, it

is doubtful if such forces could meet them adequately without reducing essential day to day duties and patrols to danger level. Even if the "Yard" were brought in, a tremendous amount of routine investigation and information would still be required of the local force, a point the public tends to overlook.

### Problem of Jurisdiction

Under local control, the problem of boundary demarcation still remains. In the past this has bred a somewhat parochial outlook among members of the local forces and it still lingers in a few localities. But while it is true that the urban members may be at a loss if involved with the intricacies of sheep dipping and the like and the rural member may seldom be in touch with metropolitan crime, all are equally important in this age of rapid mobility when criminal activities can be transferred from country to town in a matter of minutes and the city criminal can transport himself into rural areas in the same space of time.

The boundary difficulty has to a certain extent already been recognised by the establishment of the regional criminal record offices at such places as Cardiff, Durham, Birmingham and Bristol, their main declared purpose to co-ordinate detective work in neighbouring forces by the formation of special squads. Their duties, however, are limited and cover mainly the activities of criminals using mobility to keep a step in front of the law. The fact, however, that such provision was considered necessary was admission that the problem was a real one. While the solution may go a long way to deal with the situation, it would appear to offer only a compromise and partial relief.

### **Closer Integration**

While there is room for local pride, there should certainly be no place in present-day police forces for limited thinking, and one of the major requirements appears to be an even closer integration of services. One may go even further and suggest that in some instances the obstacles imposed by such boundaries and thinking should be eliminated altogether and that, for certain offences, a service free from any local restrictions should be the appropriate investigating body.

### **Mobile Masters of Crime**

It may logically be questioned how this could be achieved under a system of complete local authority control. One would suggest in reply that some unorthodox and possibly original thinking may be necessary.

As I have said, with modern aids to mobility, criminals are tied by no boundaries or other similar restrictions and can in one night spread their activities over a wide area. They are able to take advantage of the latest technical aids and there is no doubt that many of their exploits are planned with the precision and efficiency of a board of directors supervising a new sales drive. Such operations when "pulled", are investigated initially by the staff of the local C.I.D. who, while they may be able and efficient, cannot always be expected to have had the experience acquired by constant contact with major crime, nor, except in the larger cities, may they enjoy the services of specialists in all the fields requiring investigation. One may take involved fraud as an example. The opportunities afforded a local detective of dealing with cases of anything more than simple fraud are comparatively restricted. Members of a fraud squad such as is maintained by Scotland Yard may deal with as many cases in one year as members of a local Force may face in a lifetime. Indeed, the success of the Yard's fraud squad is evidence of the possible benefits to be gained from reorganisation and innovation—benefits which can extend throughout the country.

The specialist must inevitably have a wider experience—in his particular field—than the "G.P." of the profession whose time is mainly taken up with routine investigations

of local law breaking. A case of murder offers an even better example. Wide experience of such cases, coupled with skilled observation and deduction acquired in frequent investigations of a like nature must in most circumstances prove more successful than a good general training which lacks the maturity in investigation that only experience can provide.

### **Calling in "The Yard"**

The only example that can be provided at present of the advantages of calling in the services of specialists unrestricted by local boundary or other limitations, is that provided by the practice of calling in Scotland Yard should the circumstances—in the opinion of the Chief Constable—warrant this step. The weakness of the system is that the Yard cannot undertake an investigation outside their own area unless invited to do so by the local Chief and the cost of such investigation will only be met at a national level if they are called in within forty-eight hours. The Chief may consider that his own staff is competent to deal with the investigation and valuable time is lost should events prove otherwise.

### **Proposed Central Bureau**

What is really required in the opinion of many people is the creation of a permanent Central Bureau, having a number of provincial centres staffed by personnel able to concentrate on a sphere of specialist investigations and highly trained and experienced in their particular field. To make the use of such a bureau effective, legislation would be necessary making investigation of certain crimes the province of the central bureau organisation. This would mean, in effect, that major crimes, or perhaps certain categories of major crimes—murder and gangster crimes such as bank hold-ups, waylaying of bank messengers, safe blowing, arson, G.P.O. raids and the like—would by law have to be reported to and investigated by the central investigation bureau, initially through the nearest provincial bureau's staff who would advise the central office. The provincial organization would at all times ensure the best possible liaison with the local forces and this would be the primary purpose of the provincial offices of the bureau. As the bureau's field of investigation would be clearly defined by law, the local Chief would suffer no loss of prestige. Indeed, the prestige of the police as a whole would be raised in the eyes of the public who are more impressed by the speedy and successful conclusion of an investigation than be concerned about who was responsible for the result.

### **High Efficiency**

The chief advantage of the proposed bureau over a purely national force is that it would be responsible to a Commissioner who would be answerable only to the Home Secretary. The Commissioner would be in a category similar to other senior civil servants in the matter of professional impartiality irrespective of the politics of the day. By being limited by law to investigations of a certain nature his staff would achieve a high standard and many would be able to specialise and so gain that intuition which is so important and is born only of extensive experience. The process would be furthered by calling in regional staff for regular refresher courses and by personnel exchanges with both Commonwealth and foreign comparable bodies, for examples the R.C.M.P. and the F.B.I. on the American continent and Interpol in Europe. In this way an extremely high standard of efficiency and "know-how" could be assured. The best brains of the country might be attracted to a force where their particular talents would be afforded full scope. Additional fields of recruitment never available to the normal police would be opened up and the overworked police would be relieved of the necessity to take men off routine duties whenever faced by a major crime.

To the sceptics who question the need for such a radical step, one need only cite the number of unsolved murders (13 last year) and the proportion of lesser publicised crime remaining unsolved. In any event it is quite unfair to expect the police to take in their stride indefinitely all the additional duties which during the last two decades have been thrust upon them unless they obtain relief in other directions—as has been proved in a minor matter by the recent introduction of traffic wardens.

## SCOTLAND



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Member, Association British Detectives, and  
Industrial Police Association.  
Scottish Representative of the  
World Secret Service Association.

November, 1960

## AMERICA'S PART-TIME POLICEMAN

REPORTS from America indicate a growing tendency among policemen to take spare time employment in order to supplement their pay. Disciplinary measures have been started in some sections with a view of discouraging the practice.

Mr. John Cassese, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, defended the police part-timers in a radio interview. He estimated that 60 to 70 per cent of New York's 24,000-man force were so engaged. He admitted that the facts were amazing, but asked what was the alternative if the men could not otherwise make ends meet. He advocated that it should be permitted so long as it did not conflict with duty.

That the practice should be defended seriously will be noted with surprise in this country. The police are none too pleased with the suggestions made by official witnesses before the Royal Commission on the Police that their rates of pay are worth a great deal more than face value because of the hidden emoluments in respect of free accommodation, food and uniforms.

A wag writing in *Tally-Ho!*, the magazine of the Leicestershire and Rutland Constabulary, comments on this pay issue with a satirical note on "Hidden Emoluments". He listed among supplementary jobs open to policemen: partnership with a wealthy book-maker, selling equipment to foreign tourists, getting transferred every quarter, contracting leprosy and going sick for good, and joining two forces and working a shift in each daily!

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## CRIME PREVENTION

### PARENTS ARE WARNED Children's Misdeeds May Recoil On Them

PARENTS are warned by the Home Secretary, Mr. R. A. Butler, that in future they may have to bear increasing responsibilities for their children's misdeeds. Addressing the National Union of Teachers' conference on popular culture, in London, Mr. Butler said he was certain that Lord Ingleby's committee would indicate "the need to associate in some way the parents with the peccadilloes and faults of their children." The Ingleby Committee's conclusions on its inquiry into the law as it affects children and young persons are on page 346, comment on page 320. The Government may adopt its recommendations on this point.

"I don't think we can allow parents to go uninterested in the problems of their children or the misdemeanours they may commit," Mr. Butler added.

#### T.V. Doubts

Mass media, including television, should be used to remind parents of their responsibilities. Mr. Butler hoped they would pay more attention to this than previously.

"One must acknowledge," he added, "that the type of Westerns, and even certain chapters from 'Emergency—Ward 10,' which prevent my children from obeying my summons, do fill the parents who have occasional glimpses of some of these programmes with some alarm."

#### Cardinal's Misgivings

Cardinal Godfrey, Archbishop of Westminster, has also misgivings on this aspect of T.V. raised by the Home Secretary. Addressing the Public Morality Council, on the same day, he observed:

"The unceasing portrayal of killings and crime for the entertainment of old and young weakens the moral fibre of looker and listener and breeds in his mind this distorted idea of the value of human life."

"Let us hear more about the freedom of the righteous citizens and less about the freedom of the law breaker. One of the evils of the present time is the lessened appreciation of the sacredness of human life."

"It is disastrous for any nation when sex and sensuality become big business."

The Archbishop said it would be generally agreed that religious and ethical restraints were weak and should be strengthened. "Running through all this is what is described as the 'couldn't care less' attitude of both old and young."

### DEFEATING THE SHOPLIFTER Card Shopping Trial In U.S.A.

SHOPPING by card is the latest device to be adopted in America to defeat the shop-lifter.

Besides the piles of goods in the self-service supermarket stores are piles of punched cards. These are collected by the customer instead of the goods and are tendered to the cashier. Sorting machines prepare invoices and inform the packers, and the goods arrive within three minutes neatly packed ready to be taken away.

Previously super-markets lost so much to the expert shoplifters that profits expected from the saving of assistants' wages were seriously reduced. Managements retaliated by having uniformed police at each exit. The reaction on the part of customers was one of injured resentment and falling custom. It is hoped that the card system will solve the problem of self-service to the satisfaction of all concerned—save, possibly, the shoplifter.

Crime Prevention cont. on pp. 345 & 346

Security Gazette

## RELY-A-BELL ACQUIRED BY BURGOT RENTALS ALARM SERVICE LINK-UP

**A**N important development in British commercial security services has taken place with the announcement last month that Burgot Rentals Ltd., of Westbourne Grove, London, W.C.2, has acquired the Rely-a-Bell Burglar and Fire Alarm Company Ltd. and its four subsidiary companies.

The Rely-a-Bell company, established nearly 50 years ago, is the oldest burglar alarm firm in the country and also manufactures a wide range of fire alarms and protective grilles.

According to Mr. R. Harris, managing director of Burgot Rentals Ltd., which has specialised in the 999 alarm system, the resources of the Rely-a-Bell company added to his own company's nation-wide distribution of security depots will now constitute the country's largest burglar alarm group.

The two companies, the *Gazette* understands, will continue to operate independently and with unchanged policies.

Mr. J. J. Knight remains on the



Mr. J. J. Knight, who remains on the Rely-a-Bell Board.

Rely-a-Bell board and is joined by Mr. J. M. Slot, Mr. R. Harris, Mr. D. J. Moloney, and the Hon. Luke Asquith. Rely-a-Bell's subsidiary companies include the Signal Burglar Alarm Company. One-third of Burgot Rental's share capital was acquired a few months ago by Chubb & Son's Lock and Safe Company Ltd.

## A.F.A. LTD. BUY UP AUTO CALL

Also announced last month was the purchase of the Auto Call burglar alarm company by Associated Fire Alarms Ltd., a move which is a development of the previous close association of the two companies.

With effect from 1st July, A.F.A. Ltd. has agreed to buy the capitals of the companies of the Auto Call group for 190,000 ordinary shares in A.F.A. On this basis, the holders of the Auto Call shares will acquire about 62½ per cent of the enlarged capital of A.F.A. Ltd. All the capitals of Auto Call are owned by Mr. W. A. McPhail or members of his family. Mr. McPhail is also chairman of A.F.A. Ltd.

It is estimated that Auto Call profits for 1960 will be not less than £80,000 before tax. After a drop in profits from £45,181 to £18,779 for the year ending 30th June, 1960, A.F.A. Ltd.'s current sales are now running at record levels. Increased efficiency is the aim of a new programme of reorganisation.

Sir John Nott-Bower, former Commissioner at Scotland Yard, and a director of Auto Call, joins the A.F.A. board.

### Personalia



#### S. AFRICAN CHIEF OF POLICE

Though the internal situation in South Africa has quietened in the past few months—with a more serious position developing in Southern Rhodesia—a heavy responsibility for keeping order rests on the Com-

missioner of Police. He is Lt.-Gen. H. J. du Plooy, who has held his present post since August. Aged 55, General du Plooy was appointed senior C.I.D. staff officer at police headquarters in Pretoria in 1947 and promoted to be chief of the C.I.D. in 1954, with the rank of brigadier.

#### INTERPOL'S PRESIDENT

British police and security officers will note with approval the distinction conferred on Mr. R. L. Jackson, C.B.E., Assistant Commissioner (Criminal Investigation) at the Yard of being elected President of Interpol at the organisation's annual meeting last month.

Mr. Jackson has held his present position since 1953. He joined the Public Prosecutor's office in 1933 and moved to the Yard in 1946.

#### New Fire Council Chairman

General Sir Sidney Kirkman, G.C.B., K.B.E., has now retired



Mr. R. L. Jackson

from the Home Office and his position as Chairman of the Central Fire Brigades' Advisory Council for England and Wales has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Philip Allen, C.B., deputy Under-Secretary of State.

## £7 MILLION DRUG SEIZURE

### Interpol Trail to New York

SEIZURE, at a New York street corner, of £7 million worth of heroin being conveyed by international drug traffickers in a taxi, marked the end of a nine months' organised operation carried out by Interpol. Co-operating with its Paris headquarters were branch officers in the Lebanon, Italy, and Belgium, while the final coup was carried out by the American Federal Narcotics Bureau.

Charged with importing the heroin was the Guatemalan Ambassador to Belgium, Mauricio Rosal, who has been dismissed from his post, and three other men.

Hailed as one of Interpol's most spectacular successes, the seizure synchronised with the assembly of the police chiefs of some 64 States for the annual meetings of the organisation in New York.

### DRUGS FOR CRIMINALS A Psychiatric Aid to Prison Treatment

IN a talk to London probation officers, Dr. Hyate Williams, a visiting psychiatrist to Wormwood Scrubbs, told of novel treatment of an experimental character now being tried on selected prisoners who agree to treatment.

Psychiatrists, including eminent Harley Street specialists, are getting prisoners to talk into tape recorders about themselves while under the influence of an exalting drug. Afterwards what they said is played back to them and discussed. Some prisoners

are encouraged to write their life stories. They frequently provide a clue to why the writer ended behind bars. By getting prisoners to talk and write about themselves the specialists gather the motives behind the crimes.

A Home Office spokesman has emphasised that all the prisoners who take the course—and they include patients from other gaols—are volunteers and are given the drug only if they agree. He had no doubt that the treatment was extremely helpful in some cases.

### GOLD SMUGGLING ARRESTS IN BOMBAY

SEIZURE by Customs officials of gold worth £170,000 had a sequel at Bombay in the arrest of two men of British nationality, Roy Stanley Saxon and Thomas Llewellyn Hughes on a charge of attempting to smuggle the gold into India.

It was stated that Saxon was a first-class passenger in the 11,693-ton liner *Asia*. Hughes visited him and the two men were arrested.

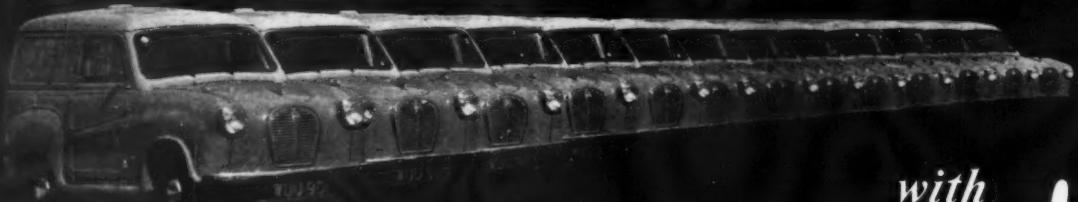
Saxon is said to have boarded the *Asia* at Hong Kong and was going to Port Said. Thomas was staying at the Taj Mahal hotel in Bombay, having flown into India "some days ago."

The Customs men said they found about 2,300 oz. of gold on Hughes and then searched Saxon's cabin, seizing more than 4,000 oz.

It was alleged that the two Britons were to have delivered the gold to a Chinese named James Leo in business in Bombay. A midnight swoop on his house is said to have resulted in the discovery of illicit liquor. Leo and three Chinese women were arrested.

Saxon and Hughes were remanded.

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## CRIME REVIEW

The main criminal successes last month were the large hauls from a London bank, a store, and a northern manufacturing company — nearly £70,000 being lost in safe raids. Some thwarted efforts are reported in the review, but the gains being made from strong rooms and in the streets are a gloomy prospect as the dark nights draw in.

### PERSISTENCE AND SKILL

#### Provide £20,000 Booty at Bank

**G**ANGSTERS in week-end occupation of the branch premises of the Westminster Bank in High Street North, East Ham, obviously worked for many hours to gain entrance to the strong room. With oxy-acetylene plant they succeeded in cutting off the lock completely, while screening the flashes from the view of people awaiting their buses at the stop outside the bank.

### BARCLAY'S HOLD-UP

Two men—one armed with a revolver—drew up outside Barclays Bank, North Wembley, a few minutes before it was due to close at three o'clock. After seeing that no customers were in the bank, they ran through the front door and held up the staff. While the man with the gun covered the staff the other went round to the back of the counter and rifled the till. Then they ran off, slammed the door behind them, and fled in a blue saloon car taking with them £800.

### BIG STORES RAIDED

Using a Commando-type ladder from the first floor roof of an adjoining building, a gang, believed to be four or five strong, got into Kennard's stores at Croydon on the night of 18th October. While two security guards were patrolling other parts of the building, the gang went to the lower ground floor and blew the locks of strong room doors, broke through the grille, and abstracted £15,000 from the vault.

### Only Watches

A three-man gelignite gang attacked a security guard and blew a safe at Louis Newmark Ltd., watchmaker, of Purley Way, Croydon, on the night of 6th October. They pounced on 57-year-old Mr. Percy Stannard, of Woodland Grove, Coulsdon, Surrey, blindfolded him and tied him to a chair. They blew a safe, but it was found to contain only ledgers. They tried to blow another but failed. Eventually they escaped with two dozen watches from the display cabinet.

When the staff arrived on the morning of the 24th October, the first thing noticeable was the strong smell of burning in the air. The office was in disorder and the strong room open—and empty. It had contained nearly £20,000. As traders brought their weekend takings and dropped them into the night safe aperture, a member of the gang saw that the money dropped safely into the booty bag at the bottom of the chute.

### £29,000 IN A FLASH

Eluding guards at the main gate of the works of International Combustion at Derby, between 10 and 11.30 on the night of 4th October, a gang got through the window of a ground floor cashier's office, blew the safe and got away with its contents of £29,500 in banknotes. The explosion was apparently drowned by the noise of the machinery in a shop less than 100 yards away where the night shift were working.

### APEING A T.V. "CRIME" Strange Coincidences

**A**KIDNAPPING and safe robbery carried out by a gang of four young men at Richmond on the night of Saturday, 8th October, so closely followed the plot of a B.B.C. television film presented as part of the crime prevention series that the C.I.D. wondered how far the criminals had relied on the film for their planning.

Mr. William Heath, 55, acting manager of the London Co-operative Society's milk depot at Sheen Road, Richmond, was waylaid in nearby Townhead Terrace. His four attackers grabbed his depot keys and bundled him into a car. Bound and gagged, he was dumped in bushes on Barnes Common. Then the gang drove back to the depot with the keys and took £1,300 from a safe. By the time Mr. Heath was spotted by a passerby and police were called, the thieves had made good their escape.

In the television film the victim was intended to be a bank official but detectives who had learned of the plot substituted one of their own men and trapped the bandits. It may



*A security officer at the Derby factory of International Combustion Ltd., examining the scene after the raid, reported left.*

have been a mere coincidence, but the film was actually shot in the Richmond—East Sheen area and Barnes Common where the bank official was to be jettisoned by the gang was used in the film.

### £2,000 GRAB IN CROWDED STREET

**M**ANY passers-by and car drivers witnessed a typical car ramming outrage and the theft of £2,000 in Poplar. It was completed successfully in a matter of seconds and the hooded bandits, four in number, made off before anyone could move to stop them.

The week-end receipts were being taken to the bank by two members of the staff of United Dairies, when their car was rammed by a large maroon car. Men with coshes smashed the windows and attacked the dairy staff. Seizing the money they ran off, boarded a van and got clean away. Two people have been charged in connection with the robbery, and remanded.

### Got at Christmas Savings

**W**ITHIN a day or two of night work finishing at a printing works in Lavington Street, Southwark, thieves broke in, blew the safe and abstracted £500 put by by the 60 employees for Christmas parties.

*Review, cont. overleaf*

Crime Review, cont.

## FRIDAY CASH RAIDS

### Ford Zephyrs in Pay Snatch

WHEN the £5,000 payroll intended for the Fleetway Manufacturing Company was being taken from the bank through Charlton Road, Edmonton, on Friday, 21st October, the car was rammed head on and masked men armed with coshes suddenly appeared out of doorways and alcoves and rushed the three men in charge of the money. They grabbed the bag and made off in a Ford Zephyr car, similar to the one used in ramming. Owing to cars being parked on either side of the road, the second Ford could only get to the scene to pick up the bandits, six or eight in number, by driving along the pavement at

speed. The raid was watched from an office window by Mr. Ronald Povey, an accountant, who dialled 999.

At the head offices of David Greig, the provision merchants in Waterloo Road, five hooded men blew two safes, after tying up the watchman, and decamped with £1,000. Two other safes were plugged with gelignite, but the charges were not fired.

\* \* \*

Mrs. C. Slark was injured and taken to hospital when resisting a man who tried to snatch a wages bag she was taking to the offices of Burke's Citrus Products in Pall Mall.

### FRUSTRATION FOR GANGS

GELIGNEITE gangs had a uniformly disappointing week-end up till Monday, 24th October. One bored through the basement wall of the old-established paint firm of Thomas Smith & Son Ltd., at the corner of the Whitechapel Road and Sidney Street, hoping to find themselves in the strong room of Barclays Bank next door. But they had miscalculated distance and found themselves outside the strong room. This frustration, after drilling a hole 18 in. wide and shifting some hundredweight of rubble, was too much for the workers who declared their night shift at an end and left with their tools.

In this they were luckier than a band of cracksmen who had designs on the safe at the offices of W. and C. French & Co., engineering contractors, of Epping New Road, Buckhurst Hill, on the same night. They suspected the presence of many thousands of pounds ready for pay day. They were at work on the strong room when they heard the approaching footsteps of the

night watchman, who had heard noises. They, too, downed tools and left so abruptly that they had no time to collect their electric drill, nor their electric light and batteries, their gelignite and detonators.

An attempt by a gang to enter a Barclays Bank branch in Church Lane, Dagenham, on the weekend of 29th-30th October, was partly foiled by householders who dialled 999. They were awakened by the noise of the gang on the roof.

Two other gangs tried to follow the burrowing technique on the same weekend. The aim of one was to penetrate into the National Provincial Bank in Cromwell Road, Kensington, from adjoining premises. They escaped when disturbed by occupants of a flat, leaving gelignite equipment behind. And at Liverpool, lack of time seems to have stopped a gang from penetrating to the vaults of a Midland Bank branch in Breck Road. They cut through the bank wall from a baker's premises, but departed without their cylinder.

### Armed Train Hold-Up

A rather more daring example of current incidents in Canada took place at Kingsey, Quebec, on 20th October. Six masked men entered the small station 10 minutes before a Canadian National Railways train was due. While two kept watch over the station master, the others held up the train, firing shots at the diesel locomotive.

They entered the van and took 15 bags of coin worth, however, only 3,100 dollars. The whole operation

took less than 15 minutes. Police set up road blocks, but the bandits managed to escape. The cash was consigned to banks in Quebec City.

More successful, with simpler tactics, was an attack by two men on a police station at Medicine Hat, Alberta, at the end of the month. They held up the lone constable with a pistol, hit him on the head, and departed with cash worth £11,000 left in the station's safe keeping.

### £10,000 LONDON GOLD HAUL

The last weekend of the month brought gains of some £10,000 worth of gold bar, wire and strip, and also gold watch cases, for an oxy-acetylene gang at the premises in Hatton Garden of Hildyard and Shindler, manufacturing jewellers.

The staff found that the locks of three safes had been burnt out when they arrived on Monday, 31st October. The raid must have taken several hours. The gang entered through a window from an adjoining alleyway.

This is the third time on which the firm's premises have been entered in the past four years, gold worth £3,000 being taken on the first occasion.

### £5,000 TAKEN IN CAR AMBUSH

Two cashiers taking wages to a building site at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, were held up and attacked by a gang on 26th October. The gang drove their car in front of the wage car. Four of them bound the cashiers and escaped with £5,000. The money belonged to the Chivers contracting firm.

### Council Offices Raided

At Bletchley, Herts., thieves blasted their way into the strong room at the Urban Council offices during the week ended 24th October and stole £1,352 in cash and £967 in cheques.

### Bogus Police Trick Gets No Haul

The old trick of a bandit dressed in "police" uniform was used to stop a National Coal Board wages van in North Nottinghamshire on 27th October. Of the three men in the gang, one wore a flat peak cap and a police-type mackintosh with initials on the shoulders.

He halted the van, going from Shireoaks colliery, near Worksop, produced a revolver, and ordered the driver into the back. The van was driven away, but when the driver was forced to open the wages box, it was found to contain only papers.

# MR. BUTLER SPURS PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

## Shops, as well as Factories, to have Fire Safety Laws

THE invaluable services performed by Fire Prevention Officers throughout the country and the increased scope of their duties under recent and projected legislation were the main themes of an address by the Home Secretary, Mr. R. A. Butler, M.P., to the twelfth annual conference of the Chief Fire Officers' Association at Bournemouth in September.

Proposing a toast to the Association at lunch, Mr. Butler remarked that the public often did not realise how much work of a less dramatic kind was done by the Fire Brigade, quietly and devotedly for the protection of the community. "Occasionally", he said, "in the glow of some more than usually terrible blaze or when, as in Glasgow, fire takes its toll of brave men taking tremendous risks on the public behalf, the public catches a glimpse of what the Fire Service does for it. Printed figures of fire losses do not tell us of the thousands of fires put out before they could get going thanks to the rapid turn-out of experienced men. Since 1947 it has been the duty of fire authorities to give advice on fire prevention and on means of escape. An immense amount of good and unobtrusive work had been done in this way. In the fire prevention officers of brigades we have a trained and expert body of men ready to give the public the advantage of their experience."

The Home Secretary added that a thorough review of training was shortly to take place, and, perhaps the most important of all, the Fire Brigades Advisory Council had set up fresh machinery for keeping under review the many questions concerned with fire prevention.

### "Higher Standards—New Duties"

We must also keep abreast of the many technical developments and changing conditions—such as altered building techniques, changes in the method of production and the shift of industry to new areas. The Factories Act of 1959 would make great and increasing demands upon the Fire Services. Mr. Butler added:

"The Minister of Labour and I look forward to seeing this important statute brought to fulfilment by a further development of the friendly and close co-operation between the fire service and the factory inspectorate, so achieving a higher standard of fire precautions in factories than we have had before. The Government also intends to bring in comprehensive legislation relating to health, safety and welfare in shops, offices and similar premises, and this again is likely to mean more work for you."

Replying to the toast, the new president of the Association, Mr. J. A. Broadbent, M.I.Fire E., Chief Fire Officer, Wiltshire, spoke of the encouragement brought to Fire Officers by the Home Secretary's support of fire prevention. He stressed the need for more positive action in the training of future fire service leaders and of the urgency of the programme of fire station building.

### Fire Stations "A Disgrace"

In his reference to the building programme, Mr. Broadbent was reiterating, in the presence of the Home Secretary, the strong plea he had advanced in his presidential address to the conference.

"Many of our fire stations are a disgrace", he had said, "bad for our public relations, unfair to our officers and men, a deterrent to recruiting and a drag on operational and administrative efficiency; all this at a time when fire losses are rising alarmingly and this year looks like reaching the £50 million mark.

"This lack of progress is not the fault of fire authorities, many of whom would by now have replaced their obsolete stations if Treasury consent had been forthcoming. I say here on behalf of chief fire officers that this matter is urgent—we must have support for our building programme if we are to maintain a reasonable standard of efficiency."

### MR. BOWLES'S PAPER

While the Fire Chiefs at their conference were naturally much concerned with manpower and

training questions, they gave consistent attention to fire prevention in many of its aspects.

*The winding-up paper on the final day, contributed by Mr. A. E. Bowles, Chief Fire Officer, Lancashire, on "The Problems of Fire Prevention Practice and Administration" is given in full on pages 335, 336 and 347.*

The paper aroused keen discussion.

Chief Fire Officer A. W. Paramor (Birmingham), the retiring President of the Association, warned against rushing into something they were not quite ready for. He would like to see every Fire Officer in the country receiving training in Fire Prevention and every operational Sub Officer with sufficient knowledge to give general advice on the subject. Every Fire Officer should be a fire preventionist. But Mr. Paramor questioned whether they could adopt the American method of using operational officers and men for doing Fire Prevention work satisfactorily.

Chief Fire Officer D. Blacktop (Staffs.) thought many Fire Prevention Officers were pre-occupied with all sorts of things outside their main duties. Steps should be taken to relieve them of chores which were purely administrative and not fire prevention. There was need for a broad-minded approach and if technical support was required then let it be provided. For example, if it was decided that plans were necessary, then they should be prepared to employ a draughtsman.

### Engineering Qualifications

Chief Fire Officer E. R. Ashill (Hampshire) asked whether it was agreed that it was going to be necessary to have at the disposal of Chief Officers a Fire Preventionist with engineering degrees.

Mr. Bowles replied: "Yes, a Fire Engineering Degree." He agreed that one of the present problems was finding officers who had had a good education and of the right calibre to become Fire Engineers and Fire Preventionists. He thought much could be done to educate and train

### Prevention Campaign cont.

members of the Service to the standard required and if they could encourage recruits with a better educational background so much the better. There was obviously scope for men of advanced education if they could be encouraged into the Service but it should be borne in mind that fire prevention by Fire Brigades was backed by experience at fires. There was no short way for an Officer to gain this experience. Much more could be done and should be done to bring on by education men already in the Service.

### Preparing Industry

Chief Fire Officer R. J. Stepney (Cambridgeshire) thought there must be a lot to be done to educate factory managements and industrialists generally to the idea of inspections under the Factories Act, to goodwill visits and to the wider aspects of fire prevention. Care must be taken not to convey the impression that they were being interrupted every five minutes by members of the Fire Brigade.

Mr. Bowles, commenting on the suggestion, mentioned that there were many examples of good co-operation between Fire Brigades and factory managements. He appreciated the point made by Mr. Stepney but he thought everyone would realise it was not necessary to dis-

turb the factory manager on every visit and this should be done only when it was appropriate and at the right level. It was not usually difficult to develop contacts in industrial establishments, particularly with people such as works' Fire Brigade Officers and Security Officers who were interested in fire prevention.

Chief Fire Officer C. J. Murden (Lincolnshire) recalled that, when Sir Arthur Dixon spoke at the first Long Fire Prevention Course at the Fire Service College in 1944, he quoted the Latin tag *Festina Lente*; it would be wrong to go too fast. Perhaps one of the most difficult jobs was to educate public opinion. All Chief Fire Officers should keep in mind how they were going to implement Fire Prevention Week and they should think about it now and be ready with a planned programme. Then and only then could they reach the necessary standard.

Local authority representatives who contributed to the discussion pointed out that from the point of view of the public, fire prevention work was less spectacular than fire fighting and publicising its importance was not an easy task. One speaker observed that he had found the talk useful and considered that Chairmen of Committees would need to convince their colleagues of the need for more Fire Prevention Officers and to see that means were available to train them.

## ESCAPE FROM FACTORIES

### Fire Authorities' Take Over Powers

FROM 1st December the powers under which district councils have regulated the provision of means of escape from fire in factories will, under the 1959 Factories Act, be transferred to local fire authorities. Where the requirements of a fire authority involve the application of building bye-laws, the local authority has to be consulted before alterations are imposed on an occupier.

If the alterations suggested by the fire authority do not conform to the building bye-laws, the authority responsible for the latter will inform the fire authority at the earliest possible moment and suggest any possible ways of adapting the fire requirements so as to conform with the building bye-laws.

A joint memorandum has been

issued to all concerned by the Home Office and the Ministry of Labour advising them as to the procedure to be adopted under the new Act. It is pointed out that the intending occupier of a new factory should learn as soon as possible that immediately the factory comes into use a means of escape certificate will be necessary. To save trouble and expense it is suggested that it would be helpful if his plans could be seen by the fire authority before he formally submits them to the building bye-law authority for approval.

Generally, the memorandum insists that in all cases where the fire authority proposes to advise an intending occupier to alter plans they should first make sure that the alterations will conform with the building bye-laws.

## PREVENTION TRAINING

### Special Courses at Moreton-in-Marsh

TO meet the increased demand for fire prevention training arising from the provisions of the Factories Act, 1959, it is intended to hold the first two special Fire Prevention Courses at the College Annexe at the Home Office Fire Service Training Centre, Moreton-in-Marsh, in November and December. Eleven similar courses will be held during 1961. Each of the first two courses will be for 20 students; 30 students will be accommodated at next year's courses. The courses, open to officers of the rank of Sub-Officer and above, will last four weeks.

### Comprehensive Syllabus

The syllabus for each Prevention Course is designed under four group headings.

The Scientific Group, covering Industrial Chemistry, will provide instruction on industrial processes which involve the use of dangerous substances. Particular reference will be made to the storage of chemicals which, by virtue of their flammability, might affect means of escape. Principles of extinguishment and the correct extinguishing media will also be covered. Lectures on radiation hazards will aim to give the Fire Officer a balanced appreciation of the risks associated with the use of radioactive materials in industry. A careful explanation will be given of the relative hazards of *alpha*, *beta* and *gamma* rays and the precautions which may be taken in an emergency. Under another heading will be given particulars of the fire hazards associated with electrical installations which are "sub-standard" and the danger which may arise from the misuse of otherwise safe installations.

Under the legislation group studies will be provided on the new Factory Laws and on the Petroleum regulations. The Fire Engineering Group will cover building construction in relation to fire prevention, automatic fire detection, ventilation and alarms.

One of the main features of the course will be provided by the Inspections Group which will cover such aspects of fire prevention as means of escape, plan reading and surveys, siting of appliances, drills, storage and enforcement procedure.

# VAST NEW FIELD FOR FIRE PREVENTION

## Problems of the Specialist Officer

By A. E. Bowles, M.B.E.

*Chief Fire Officer, Lancashire County Brigade*

The increasing importance and volume of Fire Prevention work under new legislation were emphasised by Chief Fire Officer A. E. Bowles, of Lancashire, at the recent Bournemouth conference. He discussed the functions of specialist prevention officers and the desirability of utilising the services of operational staff in educating the public. Other points raised by his paper on everyday administration and practice problems are given herewith.

Because of the vastly differing circumstances which obtain in the varying Fire Authority areas, it is difficult to generalise on the administration and practice of fire prevention. On the one hand we have the northern fire area of Scotland which covers almost 11,000 square miles in which there is one wholetime fire station (there are many retained stations of course) and one Fire Prevention Officer, while on the other there is the County of London which covers 117 square miles, has 60 wholetime fire stations and employs many Fire Prevention Officers notwithstanding the fact that a good deal of fire prevention work is carried out by the staff of other departments of that authority.

### Impossible to Standardise

Between these two extremes there are Fire Brigades with widely differing areas both as regards size, fire risk and staff employed, while the responsibilities placed upon Fire Brigades in connection with fire prevention vary from place to place. In some of the larger cities, officers in other departments are responsible for much of the fire prevention work, whilst the Chief Fire Officers in some County Borough Fire Brigades are responsible for the administration of a wider field of fire prevention legislation than is the case in counties although even where the responsibility is not directly placed on Fire Brigades, they are called upon to act in an advisory capacity.

### Educating the Public

It is understandable if at this time your predominant thoughts relate to inspections under the Factories Act of 1959; but I would ask you to take a wider look. For example, the Home Secretary has said that the Government intend to introduce comprehensive legislation for shops, offices and similar premises and there can be little doubt that Fire Brigades will be called upon to play their part in the administration of this legislation.

Apart from the work that results from legislation, a much more active approach is necessary in the form of general education of all classes of people in fire prevention. The handling of fire prevention publicity and the giving of advice on a practical basis down to individual householder level needs much expansion if we are effectively to play our part in the reduction of fire losses.

It is fair comment at this stage to say that fire prevention is a sideline in Fire Brigade work, handled in general by a small number of specialist officers of which there is a shortage; and some quite large Brigades have lost their qualified officers by transfer and promotion and are at present finding themselves in some difficulty.

### Not a Sideline

I suggest that fire prevention should cease to be a sideline and should take its rightful place alongside the fire fighting service, sharing more or less on a fifty-fifty basis the task of controlling fire.

Eighteen years ago, someone planned for a distribution throughout the country of a comparatively small number of qualified Fire Prevention Officers working as specialists. I suggest that we now plan long term to ensure that every future Chief Officer, Senior Officer and even Station Officer has the benefit of a Long Fire Prevention Course and has had experience of practising fire prevention in the field for at least one or two years. Furthermore, we should plan for every member of the Fire Service to have a fire prevention outlook and at least a limited knowledge of the subject.

### Training

#### (1) Specialist Fire Prevention Officers.

I think most of you will agree that an officer under this heading must have qualified at a Long Fire Prevention Course taken at the Fire Service College. Up to now, 17 Long Courses have taken place—the first commencing in September, 1944. It is perhaps surprising that during this period of 16 years, only about 500 officers have attended these Long Courses. Today, in England and Wales, there are about 390 specialist officers engaged on fire prevention, most of them full time. In ranks, these are as follows:

|                               |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Divisional Officers           | ... | ... | 33  |
| Assistant Divisional Officers | ... | ... | 70  |
| Station Officers              | ... | ... | 166 |
| Sub-Officers                  | ... | ... | 121 |

Apart from about 30 Leading Firemen engaged full time on fire prevention, there appear to be few members of the service employed solely on fire prevention work who have not taken a Long Fire Prevention Course.

### Backbone of Specialists

I think we must be extremely careful that, in planning Fire Prevention for the future, we do not lower the standard which has already been achieved. It will be appreciated from what I shall say in a few minutes' time that I do not consider that all fire prevention work need be carried out by specialists but I do suggest that we should examine the position and make arrangements for an adequate number of specialist officers who have taken a Long Fire Prevention Course. Even if some assistance is provided by officers who have taken a

Short Fire Prevention Course, can we be satisfied that the demands of the future will be met by the present programme of Long Courses?

However we plan, it seems certain that the backbone of fire prevention by Fire Brigades will be the specialist Long Course Officer. His duties will vary, depending upon the Brigade in which he serves: in some large Brigades he might be engaged on a single reference within the Fire Prevention Department, while in other Brigades he would be called upon to deal with most aspects of fire prevention. Whichever is the case, I think it must be accepted that the science of fire prevention is a highly technical and complicated business and I think we might fail miserably in our task if we permit too much dilution and do not employ sufficient specialist Fire Prevention Officers.

### Not Forgetting Promotion

Just one final point regarding specialist Fire Prevention Officers: I sometimes wonder if they are fairly treated in regard to promotion. It is clear that the officer who returns to operational duty is often at some advantage but it does seem that many specialist Fire Prevention Officers do become crusaders to the cause, they become immersed in this particular aspect of Fire Brigade work and in some places they seem to be indispensable and would certainly be difficult to replace. Promotion does not come their way because of the job they are doing. Although I have noticed that there has been some regrading of posts which has been justified by increased responsibilities, I doubt if this has been the case generally.

### (2) Assistance in Fire Prevention Departments by Officers who have taken a Short Fire Prevention Course.

As mentioned above, there is a comparatively small number of non-specialist officers engaged full time on fire prevention and the extent to which officers on operational duties are used on fire prevention matters is somewhat of an unknown quantity; but, from what I have been able to gather, the use of operational officers on fire prevention work is not very widespread.

That there is a demand for officers under this heading is without question, because in response to Fire Service Circular No. 4/1960, Fire Brigades indicated that they have a requirement for nearly 800 or 900 officers to attend the Short Special Fire Prevention Course. The whole question of the training of Fire Prevention Officers is under consideration by the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council and the Fire Service College Board; but, in the meantime, the College Board have aimed to meet the obvious demand by providing about 900 places at Short Fire Prevention Courses during the next three years and, as you know, about six of these courses will be held this year at the Fire Service College and arrangements are in hand for others to take place at the Home Office Training Centre at Moreton-in-Marsh, the first of which will start later this year.

### Function of Short Courses

These Short Courses are designed purely to provide some officers able to assist with inspection work for means of escape under the Factories Act of 1959 and I think it is important that we heed what was said in

Fire Service Circular No. 38/1959. I quote as follows:

"The object of the courses will be to train officers to such an extent that subject to being given an opportunity to gain practical experience under supervision in their Brigades, they could carry out the work of inspecting means of escape from factories in straightforward premises and would have sufficient knowledge to recognise any difficult case, including those of high fire risk which would need inspection by a more experienced Fire Prevention Officer."

It is important to note that the syllabus of the present series of Short Courses does not cover places of entertainment, places of assembly, hospitals, etc., and relates almost solely to safety in factories.

I think it is safe to say that officers who have attended these courses will be able to help considerably, particularly in counties and those County Borough Fire Brigades who will be taking on new responsibilities regarding inspection of means of escape in factories. I take it that a number of these officers will be engaged full time on inspection work while others will be operational officers who will do a limited amount of inspection work on their own station ground or, in the case of some counties, on the grounds of neighbouring retained stations. In my view, the range of work that can be satisfactorily undertaken by these officers is limited and they will need a good deal of guidance and assistance from their specialist fire prevention colleagues.

### Follow-up Inspections

Many of you may consider that such officers should do no initial inspections of factories where a means of escape certificate is being issued for the first time but, if they accompany a specialist officer on the initial inspection, they should certainly be able to carry out follow-up inspections.

There is perhaps no necessity for me to say that the amount of follow-up inspection work is going to increase at a high rate and this is something which certainly needs to be taken into account in any forward planning.

In a short term plan, should there not be a regular series of Short Fire Prevention Courses for operational officers covering a wider field than just factories? A few pilot courses of this type were held at the Fire Service College and I hope the College Board will give serious consideration to having a regular course of this type in the future.

### (3) Officers and Men on Stations and the extent to which they can help with Fire Prevention work.

The whole question of the use of operational staff on Fire Prevention work is worth examination. It is only by using every means in our power that fire prevention by Fire Brigades will ever make sufficient impact for the benefit to be clearly seen.

There is much that can be done in the form of Fire Prevention publicity, education of the public in groups or of the ordinary householder, instruction in schools, to work people in commercial premises and factories, by operational staff from fire stations and although obviously some special training and preparation is necessary, it is true that much of this work does not need the personal attention of specialist Fire Prevention Officers although, of course, co-ordination and guidance would need to be given by such officers.

*Cont. on p. 347*

*Security Gazette*

# LESSONS OF GREAT GLASGOW FIRE

## Official Report Stresses Fire Risks of Spirits in Bond

**R**ECOMMENDATIONS for reducing the risk of fire in bonded warehouses were made in the report of the Glasgow Fire Service on the disastrous whisky fire on Monday, 28th March, at which 19 members of the fire and salvage services lost their lives as the result of an explosion.

Although the possibility of the origin of the fire from electrical installation fault or a dropped light have been fully examined, the cause and exact place of origin have not been established.

### An Adapted Building

The premises concerned were originally built in 1892 for the purpose of flour or grain mills, and were only adapted some two or three years ago to their occupancy as bonded warehouses. As will be noted from the description of the buildings, they were consistent with the traditional style of old mill buildings with timber floors on heavy timber-carrying beams supported by cast columns, with slated and timber roof. When the buildings were being adapted to warehouse use, the heavy timber-carrying beams were in most cases replaced by steel "H" beams, while the electrical installation was completely renewed in steel conduit but with fluorescent lighting fitments as previously referred.

It was further understood that a Sprinkler installation which had been originally installed during the previous occupancy had been removed in preparation for its new occupancy. No alternative system of automatic fire defence was provided.

Fire risk assessment of bonded warehouses of this type had at all times been regarded as exceptionally high, particularly in old type properties of such a high structural timber content, together with the extremely high occupancy fire load involved. Little thought had apparently been given to the now-accepted practice referred to in "The Fire Grading of Buildings."

"It is an elementary principle of modern fire prevention," states the report, "to provide structural fire

resistance to satisfy the nature of occupancy in the same manner as one would design the structural loading precautions for whatever purpose the building is intended to be used."

Buildings built specifically for their function as bonded warehouses were considerably safer in structural design and of a much lower timber content, if any, and use of automatic fire detection had been made in these instances.

### No Regulations

The report points out that there appears to be a complete absence of any statutory regulations whatsoever applicable to the safe keeping or storage of bulk whisky, from a fire risk consideration.

Bonded warehouses are controlled by H.M. Customs & Excise authorities but such is confined entirely to revenue restrictions.

The Factories Act, 1937, was applicable to these establishments, although the bonded warehouse sections did not come within the scope of Section 34; the only sections of the premises to which Section 34 applied were those of the Bottling and Bottle Washing sections.

Plans of alterations necessitated by the changed use were concerned only with the structural applications of the building and not with the nature or condition of occupancy.

At no time was the Fire Service invited to make observation either by inspection or an examination of the plans in respect of the building and change of occupancy, etc.

Periodic inspections of the premises were carried out by the Salvage Corps in pursuance of insurance requirements in respect of housekeeping conditions.

### Jury Demands Alarm System

Referring to the proceedings at the official inquiry, the report notes that, in summing up the case, the Sheriff tendered guidance to the jury in explaining that there was a remarkable absence of fault or blame on anyone, since the occupiers did not fault in any way by failing to carry out any statutory obligation

in respect of their building and its occupancy. The hearing did display quite clearly the lack of legislative control in respect of such a high risk. The Sheriff added that no doubt the appropriate authorities concerned with the incident would further deliberate the wisdom of whether legislative control should be introduced to such types of occupancies.

At the inquiry, criticism was directed to the nature and type of structure used as a bonded warehouse, and the presence of fluorescent lighting in atmospheres associated with the risk of this type of storage. Considerable prominence was given to the question of providing automatic fire detection installations in such premises, and, in submitting their formal verdict, the jury added a rider thereto that such systems should be installed in all bonded warehouses used for storing alcohol.

### Siting of Whisky Stores

Consideration was given at the inquiry to the criticism directed against the siting of occupancies of high fire risk in highly congested industrial areas. Further criticism was directed to the siting of the particular bonded warehouse in such close proximity to a similar bonded warehouse. Views were expressed that bonded warehouses should be limited in their number of floors—possibly not greater than two floors—with possible limitation in their cubic content with adequate subdivision and of a fire resistance consistent with their mode of occupancy; control should be exercised over their disposition throughout the community.

### Firemaster's Tribute

In a personal introduction to the report, the Firemaster of Glasgow, Mr. Martin Chadwick, C.B.E., M.I.F.E., M.I.E.S., expressed the view that the fire was the worst disaster in the history of the British Fire Service, within the functions of its normal peace time tasks.

"Whilst expressing very deep regret at the loss of so many val-



Mr. Martin Chadwick

**Glasgow Fire, cont.**

able Officers and Men," wrote Mr. Chadwick, "I am very conscious that in some measure we were fortunate that the loss of life was not even greater. Had the explosion occurred about 10 minutes later, the death roll may have been in the region of 50 to 60.

"As it was, a large percentage of the crews making the initial response were involved in the explosion which affected both sides of the building simultaneously, and the 19 personnel who were killed were among those who arrived on the fireground in the first 10 minutes. The resultant subsequent release of liquid whisky and inflammable vapour rendered immediate rescue operations impossible, and this, together with the fact that teams on both sides of the building were instantly involved, prevented one body of men assisting the other.

"The extreme rapid development of fire required instant and increased attention, particularly if further explosions involving other similar Bonded Stores had to be avoided and these endeavours were the first quite proper reactions to an otherwise very alarming and hazardous situation. It is to the great credit of the Services that in spite of the knowledge of such a great tragedy, Officers and Men applied themselves to this tremendous task without any concern for their own personal safety and carried on throughout the night with such immense courage that they actually gained control of the fire situation for the first time at about 6 a.m.

"Glasgow was indeed saved from a major disaster due to the magnificent efforts of the Officers and Men of the British Fire Service."

## OLD SILK MILL BLAZE

### Smoke Handicap from Burning Crates

DENSE smoke from inflammable stores, requiring the use of eight sets of breathing apparatus, made fire-fighting difficult when the Python Mill, Littleborough, blazed soon after mid-day on 26th August. 11 appliances from the Lancashire County, West Riding and Rochdale County Borough Brigades, including a turntable ladder and an emergency tender, had to be mobilised and two firemen were injured before the "Stop" was given 2½ hours after the alarm was raised.

Built in 1907 and added to in 1924, the mill originally produced artificial silk but was latterly used for storage. The fire started in the newer part of a range of buildings of one, two and three storeys. The ground floor contained over 1,000 empty wooden packing cases containing greaseproof and tissue paper; alongside was four tons of cardboard. The upper floor

contained 33,000 loudspeaker units in bakelite and wooden cases crated in cardboard cartons.

In his report, Mr. A. E. Bowles, Chief Fire Officer, Lancashire County, recorded that, before water could be brought to bear on the first jet, the first floor, flat roof and adjoining wall collapsed, injuring the back of Leading Fireman Stafford of Lancashire County and breaking the left fibia of Fireman Worrall of Rochdale. Both officers were treated at hospital, the Leading Fireman being allowed to return to the fire after treatment.

Water from 14 main jets was necessary to control the fire. Much of the unprotected steelwork supporting the floors and roof collapsed early in the fire allowing the floor joists to be levered out of the walls.

The cause of the fire has not been established.



Piled debris inside the Littleborough mill after the fire reported above.

### AUTOMATIC EQUIPMENT ESSENTIAL

"There was no automatic fire detection equipment in this building," said Assistant Divisional Officer W. Frobisher, of the Manchester Fire Headquarters staff, of a Dale Street house where fire had caused damage warehouse where fire, on 18th October, caused damage approaching £1,000,000.

"The installation of sprinklers would have been the answer in this case. It is the only answer where large buildings are concerned, but people will not invest. Moreover, insurance rebate rates can be obtained on installations so long as they conform to the Fire Officers' Committee standards."

*Cont. on p. 340*

# MONTHLY DIARY

## By Security Chief

THE implementation of the 1959 Factories Act, insofar as its section dealing with fire is concerned, did not present a formidable task to those concerns whose factory planning and construction had the close co-operation of their respective Works' Fire Officers or the local Fire Service. But in view of the subject's great topical importance, I should like to devote my diary in this issue to aspects which must command the attention of all Security Officers.

### Means of Escape from Fire

With my employers, a certificate of "Means of Escape in Case of Fire" was granted in 1947, and where alterations or extensions to buildings were made or new premises erected, the local authority was informed and an invitation extended to inspect so that the certificate could be kept up to date. In certain localities such inspections may be carried out by the Fire Authority, who, in the case of refusal to grant or renew a certificate, must notify the Factory Inspector. It is here that a good relationship, built up over a number of years, pays dividends in smoothing out any difficulties that may arise.

### Prevention of Fire

Our Engineers' Department are fully alive to the practical use of non-combustible materials in extensions to buildings, particularly in new buildings. In some parts of the works no smoking is permitted, and this is the rule on all factory roads. Where there is no continuous shift-work and smoking is allowed, employees must cease smoking half an hour before finishing time.

A new rule to be added to our Works' Rules reads:

"It shall be the duty of every employee to familiarise himself with the location of fire appliances installed and immediately to report obvious faults in fire-fighting equipment and when an extinguisher is discharged, accidentally or otherwise, and so ensure its proper maintenance.

Supervisors shall take steps to see that employees in their charge

are trained to operate the appliances in the vicinity of their work."

All employees, in addition, are encouraged to become fire-minded. Invitations to visit the Works' Fire Station are regularly sent to Safety Sub-Committees and other committees on which both management and workers are represented. Foremen and chargehands are also included and, most important of all, those nominated as Fire Rearguards. During such visits a happy and harmonious relationship between employee and the Works' Fire Brigade is emphasised.

Instruction is given on the location and correct use of extinguishers, what else to do in case of fire, and how to call the Brigade. A test call is made from a remote part of the factory and employees are thus enabled to see for themselves what is involved in a quick response. Callers at the Fire Station for advice are welcomed and given every assistance, whether the problem relates to fire matters at work or at home.

Patrols by firemen and works' policemen are important, particularly during the first few hours after normal production work has ceased.

### Fire Fighting

"In every factory there shall be provided and maintained appropriate means for fighting fire, which shall be so placed as to be readily available for use."

reads s. 12 of the 1959 Act. It could be a clause inserted in a fire policy. Even so, it presented no problems to my employers, as the standard laid down has always been a high one. Inspection and maintenance is carried out at intervals of six months, and records of our hand appliances, now numbering over 2,500, is maintained in the Fire Station Control Room. In addition, extinguishers are visually checked daily by policemen and firemen on patrol to see that they are properly positioned, in working order, and that access to them is not obstructed. Foremen, chargehands, and Fire Rearguards have also developed a strong sense of responsibility in this direction.

The Works' fire alarm system, with its 40 external alarm boxes and 98 internal relays, are tested weekly as well as the Mulsifyre and Sprinkler systems.

Fire appliances installed in a department must be suitable for dealing with the particular material in that department likely to ignite. Great care is taken in selecting the right type of extinguishers so that the operator is not exposed to unnecessary danger, e.g. the use of water on electrical apparatus or on chemicals which react violently.

Notices are displayed in all departments giving details of what to do in the event of fire, how to call the Works' Fire Brigade and naming the Fire Rearguards.

### Safety in Case of Fire

Although the 1959 Act has amended the law with regard to marking fire exits in red letters, we shall continue the practice as it is felt that the colour red is synonymous with the word "Fire" and is likely to be more easily noticed in any emergency evacuation.

After the Keighley Mill fire early in 1956, in which eight persons lost their lives, some of our factories were visited by H.M. Factory Inspectors who checked the requirements of relevant sections of the 1937 Act. In this connection, all departmental managers were asked to conduct a survey of audible fire warnings and evacuation arrangements, and to make provisions for complying with the Act's requirements.

Whilst many departments had adequate arrangements for complying with legal requirements, no less than 71 departments were visited by the Works' Fire Officer, and various types of audible warning systems to suit local conditions were recommended. These included Klaxons, bells and sirens, all electrically-operated from a hand-switch or connected to the Works' fire alarm system. Shell cases and ships bells for hand operation were installed where appropriate.

The task of wiring the many warning systems was a formidable one and some orders for alarms were subject to delays, but the work was nevertheless completed by the autumn of 1959.

Managers of all departments were then again interviewed by the

### Monthly Diary, cont.

Works' Fire Officer, who also inspected the display of evacuation notices. These included details of pre-determined assembly points, the routes to take and the appointment of Fire Marshals, Deputy Fire Marshals and Fire Rearguards.

A master copy, containing details of all audible warnings installed, the location of switches and full details of Marshals and Rearguards, is now maintained at the Fire Station, together with details of the quarterly tests made, i.e. those tests which are not made weekly because the audible warning systems are not connected to the factory fire alarm system.

### Works' Police Relationship

To achieve a first-class security service, the relationship between members of the Works' Fire Brigade and Works' Police Department must be one of cordiality, mutual respect and interest for each others' problems, awareness of responsibility, and a willingness on both sides to help each other in the event of an emergency.

To bring about a good relationship between the two departments, arrangements are made for policemen to visit the Fire Station for short talks on organisation, fire prevention and fire fighting, and these are followed at six-monthly intervals with refresher conferences on the use of mobile fire appliances, drills in hose running, locating and fixing standpipes, and the use of ancillary equipment such as breathing apparatus and the location and wearing of protective clothing and headgear.

All factory patrols are co-ordinated so that maximum cover is obtained.

On the other hand, firemen are given short talks by the Works' Police senior officer on how they can help the police department in achieving maximum security. The policeman's role in industry is explained to them. Emphasis is, of course, placed on the fact that both departments are serving one employer and that both must work together in close co-operation. Representatives of both departments are elected to serve on Safety, Production and Works' Council Committees, giving them an opportunity of contributing to discussions on other factory problems.

### Fire Reports, cont. from p. 338

## ANOTHER AVRO FIRE

### Suspicion of Sabotage

**I**N a serious fire—the fourth at the Works in twelve months—an experimental shop at the Chadderton Works near Oldham of the Avro group where the Vulcan bomber and the Blue Steel rocket are produced, was severely damaged on Sunday, 23rd October.

More than 120 firemen from the brigades of Lancashire County, Manchester, Rochdale and Oldham fought the fire, which was in a single-storey building. Work on the prototype Avro 748 airliner was being carried out

there, and some delay in the flying programme of the aircraft may result. The fire will not interfere with Vulcan or rocket production.

Sir Roy Dobson, chairman of the Hawker Aviation Group, the parent company, has ordered a radical investigation into the cause of the fire. "I do not believe in the coincidence of four accidental fires," he said. "I am very suspicious."

In the past year the company has spent thousands of pounds on fire prevention measures.

### "BIGGEST NIGHTMARE"

**U**RGING insurance brokers to give more thought to their responsibility in matters of fire protection, Mr. W. Jackson, home fire manager to the Royal Exchange Assurance, addressing the Insurance Institute of London, said that the underwriter's biggest nightmare was unbroken roofing of bituminous coated metal in conjunction with a combustible lining and

an intervening air space.

Mr. Jackson suggested solving this problem by creating incombustible zones at least 50 ft. wide. Automatic alarms helped but did not guarantee immunity. Automatic sprinklers were preferable because they detected the fire, gave the alarm and applied water where it was wanted while the brigade was on the way.

### INSURANCE ALARM AT HUGE FIRE LOSSES

**T**HE insurance companies are beginning to show concern at the ever-increasing rate of losses from fire, according to a spokesman of the British Insurance Association.

Already it now seems certain that the record losses of 1959—£44,000,000—will be considerably out-distanced. For the first nine months of 1960, direct fire losses have exceeded £30,000,000 compared with £23,000,000 last year.

During October, more than £2,000,000 worth of damage has been added to this total. Two big fires—a workhouse at Manchester and a Woolworth's store in Glasgow—caused about £1,500,000 in damage.

As reported previously, the losses for 1959 reached £44,000,000, compared with an average of about £26,000,000 over the previous five years.

Despite these losses, it does not appear at the moment that there is any move by companies to increase fire premiums.

### USE OF FIRE DEVICES

**D**ETAILED statistical analyses made by the Joint Fire Research Organisation for the Home Office from a one-in-four sample of all reports received from the Fire Services of the country, show an increase of total fires in buildings from 50,694 in 1957 to 51,992 in 1958. The most marked increases were in private residential houses and flats—22,767 to 24,332.

Among the outstanding causes of individual outbreaks of fire, those attributable to oil lamps and stoves rose in one year from 1,948 to 3,036; electrical fires, heaters and radiators from 1,090 to 1,320; wires and cables from 2,043 to 2,436; and smoking materials from 4,971 to 5,264.

Forty-eight of the fires in buildings in 1958 were extinguished by the automatic sprinkler system and 3,312 by chemicals or chemical extinguishers. Figures for the previous year were 51 and 3,107 respectively.

In 80 cases of fires in England and Wales brigades were summoned by automatic fire alarms. In by far the greater number of fires attended, 90,372, brigades were summoned by exchange telephone, a total of 58,856, or 65.2 per cent.

## ROBBED FAMOUS HOMES

### Expert Breaker-in Breaks Out

ACCORDING to the story he volunteered to the police, who were satisfied of its truth, Richard Dunphie, 49, sentenced at Ipswich Assizes to seven years' imprisonment, had participated in some of the outstanding country-house robberies of the past 20 years and had stolen jewellery of the total value of £89,739.

Included in his hauls were the £20,000 of jewels taken from the Sunningdale house in which the Duke and Duchess of Windsor were staying in 1946; the £18,000 to £20,000 worth taken from Orsett Hall, the home of Sir Francis Whitmore, Lord Lieutenant of Essex in 1948; and plate and cash from Blenheim Palace to the value of £715 in 1939.

Dunphie, said to be bent on redeeming himself, called in the police and confessed to 18 cases of breaking-in. He left prison after his thirteenth

conviction in January this year. None of the jewellery had been recovered.

Mr. Raymond Chance, defending, said: "Dunphie achieved something of a reputation as a housebreaker, and criminals employed him simply as a technician. It was difficult for Dunphie to escape from their clutches, and in each case his reward was only a small part of the haul."

"A very astonishing story," commented Mr. Justice Finneomore, in passing sentence.

Two days after sentence Dunphie disappeared from Norwich prison after apparently breaking through sections of a corrugated iron fence. Police cars and tracker dogs combed the countryside but Dunphie got away after two narrow escapes from recapture.

He was eventually caught after a few days' liberty.

### SECURITY OFFICERS' PART IN CAPTURE OF THIEVES

FIRST CLASS security work on the part of two officers employed by Eyre Smelting Co. Ltd., of Tandem Works, Merton Abbey, is revealed by a report supplied to the *Gazette* by Mr. H. Nicholls, Chief Security Officer to the firm.

On 22nd June, at about 1.30 a.m., Security Officers Smith and Little saw two men pass along the far side of the road outside the foundry. These men stopped on top of a railway bridge—the railway forms a boundary of the foundry—and after looking both ways, disappeared down some steps on the far side of the bridge. Smith and Little immediately ran to a wicket gate giving access to the railway, and Smith continued on under the bridge. At the far side of the bridge he was able to see across the road to the close-boarded fence which is the boundary of another firm—the New Merton Board Mills. He noticed part of the fence had been removed and two men were carrying some large copper pipes through the fence and stacking them alongside the road in some shadows. One of the men saw Smith and shouted, and the two ran away.

Smith, realising he could not catch them, ran back to the Security Office and 'phoned the police, giving them an excellent description of the men and the direction in which they had gone. The police acted promptly and within half an hour had arrested the men. Smith was able to show the police the copper, which was later

valued at over £300. Later it was found that the men had a van parked on some waste ground. They had removed their shoes and left them in the van, and when arrested were wearing plimsolls.

On 22nd September, the men, Cox and Gladden, appeared at Surrey Quarter Sessions, Kingston-upon-Thames, charged with stealing the copper pipes. The case hinged solely on the identification of the prisoners by S.O. Smith, with the corroboration of S.O. Little.

#### Alleged Gang Threat

Cox was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and Gladden to two years and three months' imprisonment. Both prisoners belonged to a gang, about a dozen members of which attended the trial.

Mr. Nicholls records that an approach was made to S.O. Smith through a third person to the effect that if he was not positive in his identification of the prisoners, it would be made "worth his while". Again, through the same person, he was informed that if the prisoners were convicted, the gang would "do him". Smith ignored both the inducement and the threat, and it was entirely due firstly to his vigilance on the night of the occurrence, and secondly, to his positive identification at the trial, that the prisoners were convicted, and the New Merton Board Mills recovered their property intact.

## In the Courts

### HANDLEY PAGE £33,000 HOLD-UP

#### Three Men Charged

STATEMENTS made by three men alleged to have been concerned in the Handley Page £33,000 wage grab were quoted by the police when they were brought up at Harrow and remanded. Bertie Frederick Lawrence Judd, 33, hand settler, Birchwood Way, Park Street, St. Albans; Edward Rowlands, 27, salesman, Summerfield Close, London Colney; and Albert John Walker, 36, fruit salesman, Juniper Street, Stepney, were charged that "with others not in custody they did feloniously rob Alfred Smith, Patrick McNamara and Victor James of £32,894, and at the time of such robbery did use personal violence."

Detective Inspector George Groombridge of the Flying Squad, said he saw Judd the previous day at London Colney. "Judd said 'I know nothing about that. I used to work at Handley Page, but I know nothing about the money.'

"Later he said: 'If I told you all I knew I would get eight years. What I did was done innocently.'

Judd then made a statement.

Later Detective Inspector Groombridge saw Rowlands and Walker. Rowlands was alleged to have said: "I want to tell you everything and get it off my mind. I was a fool to have anything to do with it. I put my best mate Nobby Judd in it."

Walker was said to have told Det. Insp. Groombridge: "It is not like they say. They put the job up to me. I suppose I have got something to answer for. They came to me and wanted £2,000 or they were going to shoot me." Later Judd was alleged to have said: "I want to tell you the truth. I told lies in the other statement. What Walker said is true, except that I did not say I would shoot him."

When the men came up again a week later the question of bail was raised on behalf of Walker and Judd. The police, opposing bail, said the stolen money was still intact and could be used to ensure that accused did not appear for their trial. The men could also hamper enquiries if they had bail. Accused were then remanded in custody.

Rowlands, who did not resist the police application, was granted legal aid. All three men have been committed for trial at the Old Bailey. The prosecution has stated that the main perpetrators of the robbery have not been caught.

other cases on p. 346



## LEGAL NOTES

# Powers of Arrest By Warrant

By a Legal Correspondent

**An important aspect of police and security work is the ability and right to make an arrest. This article surveys the warrant in which the law defines the authority of officers and justices with particular attention to the execution of the warrant.**

RECENT articles in this series have pointed out that the right to search the person or property of another against his will, or to go on to his land without his consent, depends in certain circumstances on the existence of a right to arrest him. The question whether in any particular case an arrest was lawful will, if it comes before the courts, most often arise in an action by the person arrested claiming damages for false imprisonment. Such actions are commonly joined with actions claiming damages for malicious prosecution, but there are marked differences between them.

As readers of Mr. G. R. Paling's article in the June issue of the *Security Gazette* will remember, the plaintiff in an action for malicious prosecution, has to prove that he suffered damage as a result of a prosecution instituted by the defendant which not only ended in the plaintiff's acquittal but was both instituted without reasonable or probable cause and also malicious. The plaintiff claiming damages for false imprisonment, however, discharges the onus of proof that rests upon him merely by showing that the defendant detained him (and he does not, it should be noted, have to show that he was "imprisoned" in the ordinary sense); it is for the defendant to prove that the detention was lawful.

The reason for the contrast is, of course, the common law's solicitude for the liberty of the individual: the same presumption which protects the man who invokes the processes of law to remedy his grievances operates against the man who takes the law into his own hands. The principle has been carried so far that the courts have held to be excusable even a killing committed in resisting an unlawful arrest. Very different considerations apply where the arrest is lawful. Murder is, for example, still punishable with death if it is committed in the course or for the purpose of resisting, avoiding

or preventing lawful arrest—a provision which, it should be noted, protects not only police officers but the ordinary individual exercising a lawful power to arrest. Murder is also capital if the victim is a person assisting a police officer acting in the execution of his duty and there are some circumstances in which it is the duty of anyone called upon to do so to assist a police officer in making an arrest. Indeed, the person who refuses without reasonable excuse is guilty of an indictable misdemeanour. Recent events (in, for example, the Metropolitan Borough of St. Pancras) may have suggested that in this respect the letter of the law is moribund if not actually dead; but they do not detract from the principle that it is desirable for the layman to know something about his powers—and duties—of arrest.

### Warrant and Summons

Broadly speaking, an arrest is lawful (and there will, therefore, be a good defence to any action claiming damages for false imprisonment) if it is executed in obedience to a warrant (which, as will be seen, need not necessarily be a valid one) or in pursuance of powers to arrest without warrant conferred by common law or statute. The remainder of this article deals with the power of arrest with a warrant and a subsequent article will deal with the power of arrest without warrant.

To the common lawyer this order of precedence among the two articles may seem a little Irish, because the common law rule is that there is power to issue a warrant in any case where there is a right to arrest without warrant. The paradox is, however, purely superficial, for the law relating to the issue of warrants for arrest on criminal charges is now, for most practical purposes, to be found in the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952. Warrants may be issued, not only for the arrest of persons charged with offences, but to compel the attendance of witnesses and to bring a man before the courts in extradition proceedings; they may also be issued in civil cases, for example, for failure to comply with a maintenance order or the nonpayment of rates. This article will, however, deal only with arrests made by virtue of Section 1 of the Act of 1952. The effect of that section is that a justice of the peace having jurisdiction may issue a warrant if he has before him a sworn information in writing that a person has, or is suspected of having, committed an offence. If the information is oral or unsworn, the justice may only issue a summons. He may, of course, issue a summons even if the information is sworn and in writing and he should do so if a summons will effect the purpose of bringing before the court the person of whom complaint is made.

### Justice's Jurisdiction

Apart from certain special provisions (relating, for example, to offences committed during journeys), a justice has jurisdiction to issue a warrant only if the offence was committed within his area or, in the case of indictable offences (including such offences committed outside England and Wales if they are triable in this country), the person charged resides or is within that area (so that, for example, the attempt to persuade the Bristol Justices to issue a warrant for the arrest of Archbishop Makarios while he was in London in

respect of offences alleged to have been committed in Cyprus was wholly misconceived.

The warrant remains in force until it is executed or withdrawn. As will be seen, it may be executed by any police officer; it may be withdrawn only by the justice who issued it, either on an application made to him in that behalf or by virtue of an order of a Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division made in proceedings for mandamus, for example, on the ground that it was issued without jurisdiction.

A warrant may be executed at any time of day or night and on any day of the week, the old rule that it could be neither granted nor executed on a Sunday having been revoked in 1848. The old rules of the common law as to sanctuary have also been revoked, and today a warrant may be executed in any place, including even a court of law, except (possibly) a foreign embassy and, in the case of a Member of either House of Parliament while Parliament is sitting, the precincts of the Palace of Westminster.

#### **Character of Warrant**

The form of the warrant is determined by rules made under the Magistrates' Courts Act. The warrant, which is signed by the justice issuing it, takes the form of an order to the constables of the police area where it is issued to bring the person named or described in it before the court. It must contain a statement of the offences charged in the information and may be endorsed with a direction that the person named is to be released on his arrest if he enters into such a recognizance, with or without sureties, as may be specified in the endorsement.

The provision requiring the warrant to name or describe the person who is to be arrested merely re-enacts the common law rule laid down in the famous case of *Entick v. Carrington* in 1765 to the effect that a general warrant is unlawful. The warrant in that case authorized the arrest of the "authors, printers and publishers" of a specified document and was, therefore, general in the sense that it did not identify any particular individual or individuals. There are now a number of statutory provisions for the issue of such general warrants. Thus, warrants may be issued to authorise the arrest of persons found in gaming houses, unlicensed theatres and places used "for the purpose of fighting or baiting lions, bears, badgers, dogs, or other animals"—a provision which a fairly recent case has shown to be less obsolete than its terms would at first sight suggest.

#### **Police Officer's Position**

The warrant, as has already been pointed out, takes the form of an order addressed to the constables of the area in which the justice issuing it exercises jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of a police officer is also local; and the common law rule was that a warrant could be executed only within the area of the constables to whom it was addressed, unless (exceptionally) a warrant were addressed to a constable personally, for in that case he would be acting in his own right, and not in his capacity as a constable. The common law rule has, of course, long been replaced by statute and today a warrant may be executed anywhere in England and Wales by the constables to whom it is addressed and by any other constables acting within their police area.

Since 1848 there have also been provisions for the execution of a warrant after its endorsement by a justice (or the equivalent of a justice) in the British Islands outside England and Wales (i.e. the rest of the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands) and since 1843 there have been slightly more elaborate provisions for the endorsement and execution of warrants in other parts of what is now the British Commonwealth.

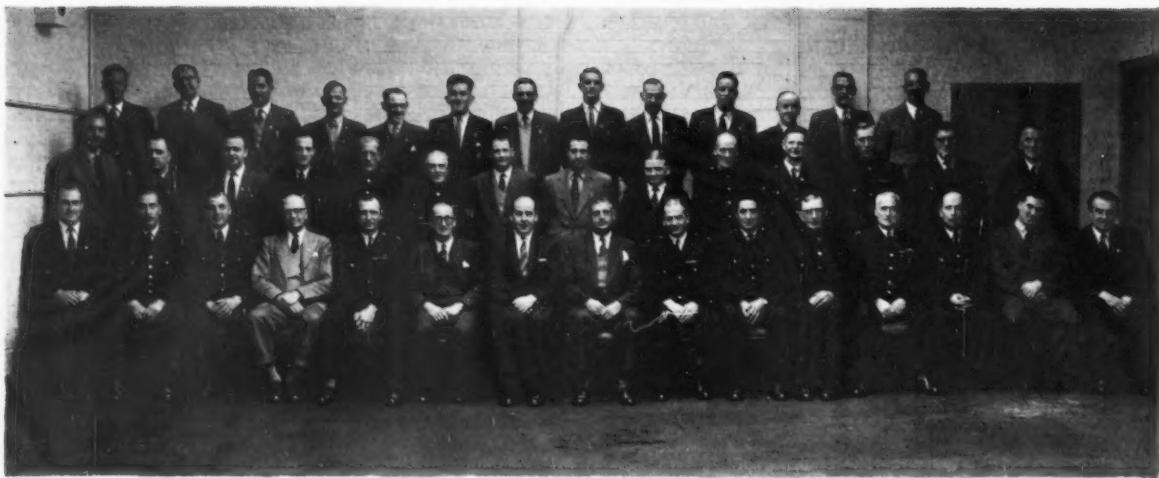
The common law also required the police officer making the arrest to have the warrant in his possession when he executed it and even then the warrant provided a defence to an action for false imprisonment only if it was a valid warrant. Both these rules have been modified by statute. First, the Constables Protection Act of 1750 provided in effect that no action shall lie against a police officer acting in obedience to a warrant, any remedy available to the person arrested if the warrant is invalid lying against the justice who issued it; and in 1925 the Criminal Justice Act provided that "any warrant, lawfully issued by a justice, for apprehending any person charged with any offence may be executed by any constable at any time notwithstanding that the warrant is not in his possession at the time, but the warrant shall, on demand of the person apprehended, be shown to him as soon as practicable after his arrest". These provisions do not, however, give the police officer such complete protection as at first appears and in the case of *Horsfield v. Brown* in 1932 it was held that they did not afford a defence to a police officer executing an invalid warrant which was not at the time in his possession. He could not, it was held, rely on the 1750 Act, because that Act applies only if the warrant is in his possession; and he could not rely on the 1925 Act, because that Act applies only if the warrant is valid—a result which might perhaps be thought to be unsatisfactory almost to the point of absurdity.

An arrest made on the authority of an invalid warrant will, therefore, be unlawful if the officer executing it does not have it in his possession when he makes the arrest. In such circumstances, the officer will have no defence to an action for false imprisonment; the validity of any criminal proceedings for which the arrest is made will not, however, be affected either by the invalidity of the warrant or by the illegality of the arrest. On the other hand, the officer making an arrest will have a conclusive defence to an action for false imprisonment, not only where the warrant is valid (and the arrest is, therefore, lawful), but also where, although the warrant is invalid (and the arrest is, therefore, unlawful), he has it in his possession when he makes the arrest.

## **MOTORISED POLICEWOMEN**

DESIGNED to further the policy of getting more police officers on beat duty, a force of motorised women police has started duty in four areas of the Metropolitan Police district in the last few weeks. Twelve women police were originally trained to use light-weight motor cycles, for which a divided skirt would have been provided. The cycle was discarded for a new type of motor scooter, on which ordinary uniform skirt can be worn.

Use of the scooter will make the women police independent of other means of transport and save a great deal of time.



MEMBERS of the I.P.A. attending the Fifth Training Course at Birmingham, reported below, were drawn from a wide range of companies. Though the majority were from the Midlands area, representatives attended from as far afield as Southampton, Grimsby, and Burnley.

## INDUSTRIAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

Our picture shows:—

*Front Row: l. to r.*

D. J. Hildick-Smith, I.C.I. Ltd.  
G. F. Browning, I.C.I. Ltd.  
G. E. Beach, I.C.I. Ltd.  
R. Smith, Mullard Ltd., Simonstone.  
G. H. Beesley, Mullard Radio Valve, Ltd.  
T. G. Sanders, Hon. Treasurer, Industrial Police Assoc., No. 9 Branch.  
Detective Chief Inspector Lashley, Fraud Squad, Birmingham City Police.  
D. V. Young, Chairman, Industrial Police Assoc., No. 9 Branch.  
L. V. Gillett, Chief Security Officer, B.S.A. Co. Ltd.  
D. R. E. Guy, Ford Motor Co. Ltd.  
P. E. Venables, B.S.A. Guns Ltd.  
R. Jameson, Distillers Co. Ltd.  
J. T. Shufflebotham, The Rover Co. Ltd.

### FIFTH TRAINING COURSE

THE fifth Basic Training Course for Industrial police-men was held in Birmingham on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3rd, 4th and 5th October. It was attended by 39 students from all parts of the country. A total of 179 Association members have now attended one of these Basic Courses.

At the conclusion of the three-day course, Mr. R. Smith, Security Officer of Mullard's Simonstone Works, thanked the directing staff on behalf of all the students for a very interesting and most useful course. As an ex-police officer, Mr. Smith said he had both enjoyed and benefited from the various lectures and discussions.

A. Crawford, James Booth & Co. Ltd.  
C. H. Wilkinson, Laporte Titanium Ltd.

Mr. Young, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Gillett, and Det. Ch. Insp. Lashley, formed the directing staff.

*Middle Row: l. to r.*

R. Wilkes, I.C.I. Ltd.  
H. Whittall, Mullard Ltd., Simonstone.  
R. Carter, Mullard Ltd., Simonstone.  
L. Whitworth, B.S.A. Tools Ltd.  
G. W. Hemming, B.S.A. Motor Cycles Ltd.  
T. Nock, B.S.A. Motor Cycles Ltd.  
A. Bond, Joseph Sankey Ltd.  
F. J. Dean, Joseph Sankey Ltd.  
H. N. Villers, Morris Motors Ltd.  
A. Price, B.S.A. Co. Ltd.  
E. Perkins, McKechnie Brothers Ltd.  
L. F. Lewis, B.S.A. Small Tools Ltd.

J. Talbot, McKechnie Brothers Ltd.  
W. T. Colloby, The Rover Co. Ltd.

*Back Row: l. to r.*

R. Speirs, B.X. Plastics Ltd.  
L. W. Dalby, B.X. Plastics Ltd.  
A. A. Hargreaves, Mullard Ltd., Simonstone.  
A. Shipley, Laporte Titanium Ltd.  
G. Craig, Laporte Titanium Ltd.  
R. W. Armstrong, Star Aluminium Co. Ltd.  
R. R. Breakwell, Star Aluminium Co. Ltd.  
R. T. Haines, Factory Guard System Ltd.  
W. Ruston, Solartron Electronic Group.  
E. J. Brooks, Southalls Ltd.  
F. Marshall, Talbot Stead Tube Co. Ltd.  
J. Price, Laporte Titanium Ltd.  
M. F. Healy, Geo. Bassett & Co. Ltd.

In particular, he remarked that he had appreciated meeting so many colleagues and had learned much from the exchange of views which the meeting had made possible.

### No. 10 Region

As reported in the last issue of *Security Gazette*, a social evening for members of this branch was held at the Lightbourne Hotel, Manchester, on the evening of Thursday, 6th October. About 50 members attended and unanimously agreed that the function had been a great success and that it should be the first of many to be organised and held in No. 10 Region.

*Continued on page 345*

*Security Gazette*

## Crime Prevention, cont. from p. 328

### R.C.M.P. CRIME BOOKLET Prevention Advice

THOSE who reflect that this country views its hold-ups, grabs and bank robberies with undue complacency will welcome the lead just given by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the campaign to defeat the gangsters. They are currently as active in Canada—and probably elsewhere—as they are here. The Crown Prosecutor of Montreal has said that almost every day innocent victims are being beaten up by hold-up men and some of them have been killed. Bank raids are frequent, especially upon the remoter branch offices.

The Mounties are tackling the problem with characteristic vision and energy. They have published a booklet *Armed Robbery—it could happen to you*, with a foreword by the Commissioner. It is full of practical clear-cut advice to the public, much of which is as relevant to London as it could be to Montreal, Chicago or any other great city. For example, there are precautions all may take to defeat the criminals' "intelligence" system—one of his most valuable adjuncts in recent years, for he gets to know quite accurately the habits of his intended victims and, incidentally, of the owners of cars required for use in a ramming job or a hold-up.

The R.C.M.P. advice to banks is this :

*Observe persons loitering near your place of business. They may be "casing" the premises. If you are suspicious, call your police department.*

*Be wary of strangers who seek change or open small accounts. This is a common ruse used by the criminal to gain intimate knowledge or familiarise himself with the premises.*

That wise advice covers one of the most urgent needs in London today.

### Industrial Police Association, cont.

Chief Inspector Pye, of the Manchester City Police, gave a talk on police problems and activities in the Manchester area. Judging by the number and nature of the questions put to him, it was evident that he had aroused a great interest among his audience. The chairman, Mr. A. D. Bullock, proposed a vote of thanks to Chief Inspector Pye and this was seconded by Mr. J. O. Jameson, member of the Council.

The meeting split up into discussion groups, each containing a member of the Council, and for the remainder of the evening members were encouraged to express freely their views and opinions on matters of professional interest or of concern to the Association

It is not easy to follow but it has become essential.

#### Warning Code

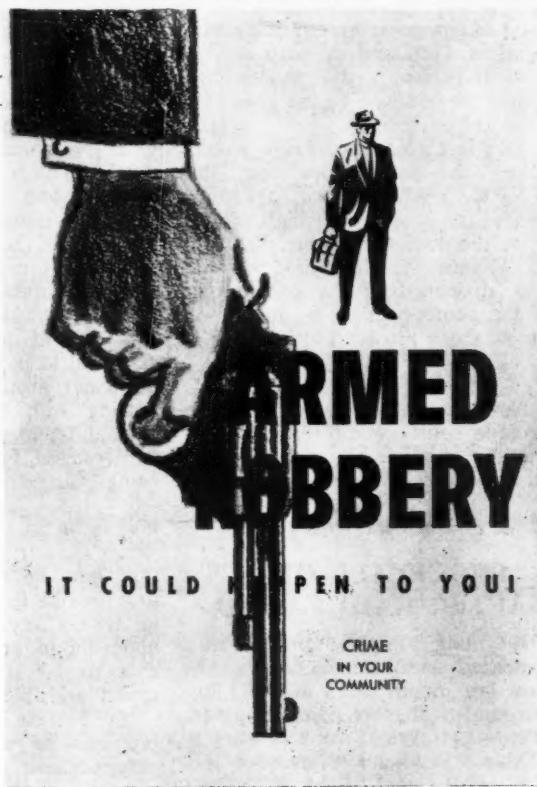
There is much more admirable advice in the booklet regarding the fetching and carrying of money, the siting of alarms, and conduct while a raid is on.

Some sort of code system is advocated whereby the first employee to arrive at a bank or business premises in the morning signals that all is well

within—it can be done simply by the raising or lowering of a blind. "Bait money" with serial numbers recorded and therefore identifiable and kept in a drawer handy to pay over on demand in a hold-up is recommended.

The importance of an adequate description of criminals involved in a hold-up is emphasised and there are expert hints on how to recognise and memorise essential details of a face when seen only momentarily and under stress at a grille or even behind the muzzle of a revolver. Such hints could come from no more reliable quarter than this famous Force. It is part of the secret of how they have always contrived to "Get their man".

*The cover of the Canadian booklet. Its contents are based on simple but effective outline illustrations with crisp wording. The Commissioner writes: "a realistic and positive approach to this type of crime provides the best measure of defence against it."*



and its future. Membership of No. 10 Lancashire Region Branch now stands at 268.

#### Association Badges

Letters have been received from one or two members asking the best way of cleaning discolouration from the Association Badge. This matter has been referred to the suppliers and their reply indicates that discolouration sometimes occurs where the atmosphere is minutely impregnated with acids from nearby chemical processes. The manufacturers recommend that the badge should be lightly rubbed with a rouge leather or cleaned with a stiff brush, using soapy water. Of the two processes, it seems the former is to be recommended.

## FRESH APPROACH TO JUVENILE CRIME

### Ingleby Report's Proposals

MAJOR alterations in the present treatment of juvenile delinquents are recommended in the report of the Ingleby Committee on Children and Young Persons, issued last month.

Four items of particular value to crime prevention are:

1. The minimum age of criminal responsibility should be raised from eight to 12, with the possibility of a future limit of 13 or 14.

2. Parents should be required to attend courts with their children.

3. Where appropriate the court should be empowered to order payment of compensation up to a maximum of £100 and/or costs.

4. Initiation of proceedings should be confined to the police or the local authority.

The last recommendation would rule out prosecutions by the N.S.P.C.C. whose work, nevertheless, is the subject of a high tribute from the committee. One member, Sir Thomas Williams, in a reservation, dissents from the conclusions of the committee on the matter of the society's prosecutions.

#### New Procedures Wanted

New procedure advocated for juvenile courts would provide that children under 12 who commit offences and all children who are

in need of care or protection or are beyond control, as at present defined, should be brought to court as "being in need of protection or discipline," and that parents should be summoned to attend and bring the child with them.

The committee does not believe that the juvenile court should be replaced by a non-judicial or quasi-judicial tribunal. What is desirable, in their view, is that the juvenile court should move still further from its origin as a criminal court.

These changes are not designed to enable offenders to be dealt with more leniently. As far as practicable, present methods of punishment or treatment would be retained.

Present procedure the committee found unsuitable and, in some ways, positively misleading. Its weakness was that a juvenile court often appeared to be trying a case on one particular ground, and then to be dealing with the child on some quite different ground.

It resulted, for example, in a child being charged with a petty theft for

which most people would say there need be no great penalty, and the case ending apparently in a disproportionate sentence.

"Despite this very real difficulty," states the committee, "we are in favour of retaining the present basic principle that specific and definable matters must be alleged and that there should be no power to intervene until those allegations have been adequately proved."

#### Age Limits

It is suggested that juvenile court justices should be between 30 and 40 on first appointment, having completed a course of training. All should retire at 65.

Regarding the upper age limit of 17 for juvenile court jurisdiction the committee is of the opinion that this should not be raised. "We do not mean to imply that we are happy about the position of the 17-year-olds and those a year or two older who appear before ordinary magistrates courts. "Some of us think that there ought to be some specially designed jurisdiction, which may well be called a youth court, for those aged 17 to 20 or perhaps 21. We think this matter calls for further examination."

#### In the Courts, cont. from p. 341

### "SHOOK ALL OVER" AFTER RAID FAILED

A young company director was sentenced at Buckinghamshire Assizes last month to 18 months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to attempted armed robbery at a Chalfont St. Peter Branch of the National Provincial Bank in August.

It was an unusual case. For the prosecution it was stated that the man, Stanley Maudell, aged 36, walked into the bank wearing blue sunglasses, stuck a toy gun into the back of Mr. Charles Smith, aged 65, the guard, and demanded money. When the cashier, Mr. Ronald Howlett, rang the alarm, Maudell threw the gun away "and began to shake all over".

Mr. A. Ellison, for the defence, said that the only person really terrified by the incident was Maudell. He had been troubled all

his life by an extremely bad stammer. When he started up in partnership this year, he realised that for the first time he had found a job where he did not have to talk. But he was under the impression that he needed £500 as his share of the working capital and this preyed on his mind.

Mr. Justice Havers said it was a premeditated attempt which failed only because of the courage and resources of the two bank officials.

### SOUTH COAST RAIDS CHARGES

REMARKABLE precautions were taken by police at Brighton magistrates' court when Edward Frederick Pascoe, of Windsor Road, Worthing, appeared on an extended list of charges. Uniformed police and detectives were at every door of the court. The police stated that the case when opened would be conducted by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Pascoe, aged 33, was accused of being in unlawful possession of eight detonators and three sticks of gelignite.

nite. When he appeared again on 7th October he faced eight other charges as follows:

Unlawfully having under his control at Worthing a quantity of detonators, cartridges, gelignite, and slow-burning fuse.

Being in possession of an automatic pistol when arrested in Brighton.

Breaking into a bank in Worthing with intent to steal.

There were five charges of breaking-in and theft at a Worthing office (£14 10s. allegedly stolen); a Brighton bank (£82 9s.); a Hove store (£292 12s. and stockings worth £118); a Brighton coal merchant's £3 19s.) and a Brighton warehouse (£6).

Pascoe was remanded in custody and granted legal aid.

### REPLIES TO ADVERTISERS

Our readers are particularly invited to mention the *Security Gazette* when they make enquiries in response to advertisements.

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November, 1960

## VAST NEW FIELD FOR FIRE PREVENTION

continued from page 336

### Firemen Can Help

I think it is fair comment to say that at present some Fire Brigades do a limited amount of work in the way indicated but, is it not true that insufficient has been done to prepare the operational side of the service for the fire prevention tasks which face us?

There are difficulties, of course; rider strength must be maintained and any progressive scheme for using operational staff on fire prevention work may result in the need for an increase in rider strength. Nevertheless, if the object of fire prevention on a wide-scale basis is achieved, it might be secured more economically by a wider use of operational staff rather than employing many more people solely on Fire Prevention. It certainly ought to enable a fireman's job to be made more interesting than perhaps it is at present.

### "Walkie-Talkie" Calls

My own experience is that a good deal of inspection work for fire fighting purposes under 1(1)D of the Fire Services Act can be done while appliances and men remain available for operational fire cover. I have found it necessary on occasions to make contact by walkie-talkie between the appliance and the crew who are carrying out an inspection so that they can be recalled if required, but, of course, there is an inevitable delay if the appliance is required to attend a fire. However, I am sure there are ways and means which would enable much useful fire prevention work to be undertaken by operational staff while satisfactory fire cover is still maintained.

### Three-Stage Approach

It will be seen, therefore, that Fire Prevention might well have a three-stage approach. The specialists who can perform all kinds of Fire Prevention work, the Officer to assist who can do work to a limited extent and the operational staff who will spread fire prevention gospel far and wide.

There is still much to be done in these matters, but I am confident that the British Fire Service will do what is necessary to meet the need, and judging by fire losses last year and this, there certainly is a need.

### Finance

The question of finance for fire prevention is worth a mention. Generally speaking, fire prevention services are provided without charge. Published statistics on the cost of the Fire Service pay no regard to the effectiveness of the fire prevention work performed by Fire Brigades and, therefore, a Brigade which provides a really adequate fire prevention service incurs expense with nothing on the credit side in the statistics to show for it. This is a situation which ought to be rectified.

### Administration and Records

As the work of Fire Prevention Departments expands, efficient administration and the keeping of proper records is something which needs careful consideration and good staff and a businesslike system is an essential. I am sure we shall be called upon more and more to provide reliable information, both for statutory and statistical purposes. This need must be appreciated in advance so that a system can be introduced to enable information to be easily produced.



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